

# THE CORD WEEKLY

The pain and pleasure  
of piercing page 28

Women go two and out  
at nationals page 20

Volume 44 Issue 26

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## Defeated by system

*Tiebreaking procedures leave Ice  
Hawks out of running at nationals*

**DEREK IWANUK**  
Sports Editor

After upsetting the two best teams in Ontario (Toronto and Queens') in the OUA to win the OUA title, The Laurier Golden Hawks looked to continue their fine play as they took on the best in the country in Montreal this weekend. However, a controversial tiebreaker ruling placed the Hawks in fifth place at the CIS championship, although, according to some of the rule interpretations, they could have been playing for the gold medal.

On Thursday afternoon, the Hawks took on the University of Saskatchewan Huskies in the first round of round robin play. In a game which saw the Hawks dominate most of the game, Saskatchewan's goaltender Robin Nuttall slowly broke the hearts of the Hawks with her dominant play in net. The Hawks had many scoring opportunities throughout the game and also outshot the Huskies 32 - 17 in regulation.

### Saskatchewan 1 WLU 0

Hawks goaltender Emily Stein was solid in net throughout the game, until a minute and thirty seconds into the overtime period. Although the Hawks kept up the pressure in overtime, Huskies forward Andrea Zabloski slipped one past Stein to win the game for the Huskies. The loss hurt the

Hawks who would have to win out to have any chance at a medal in the Championship.

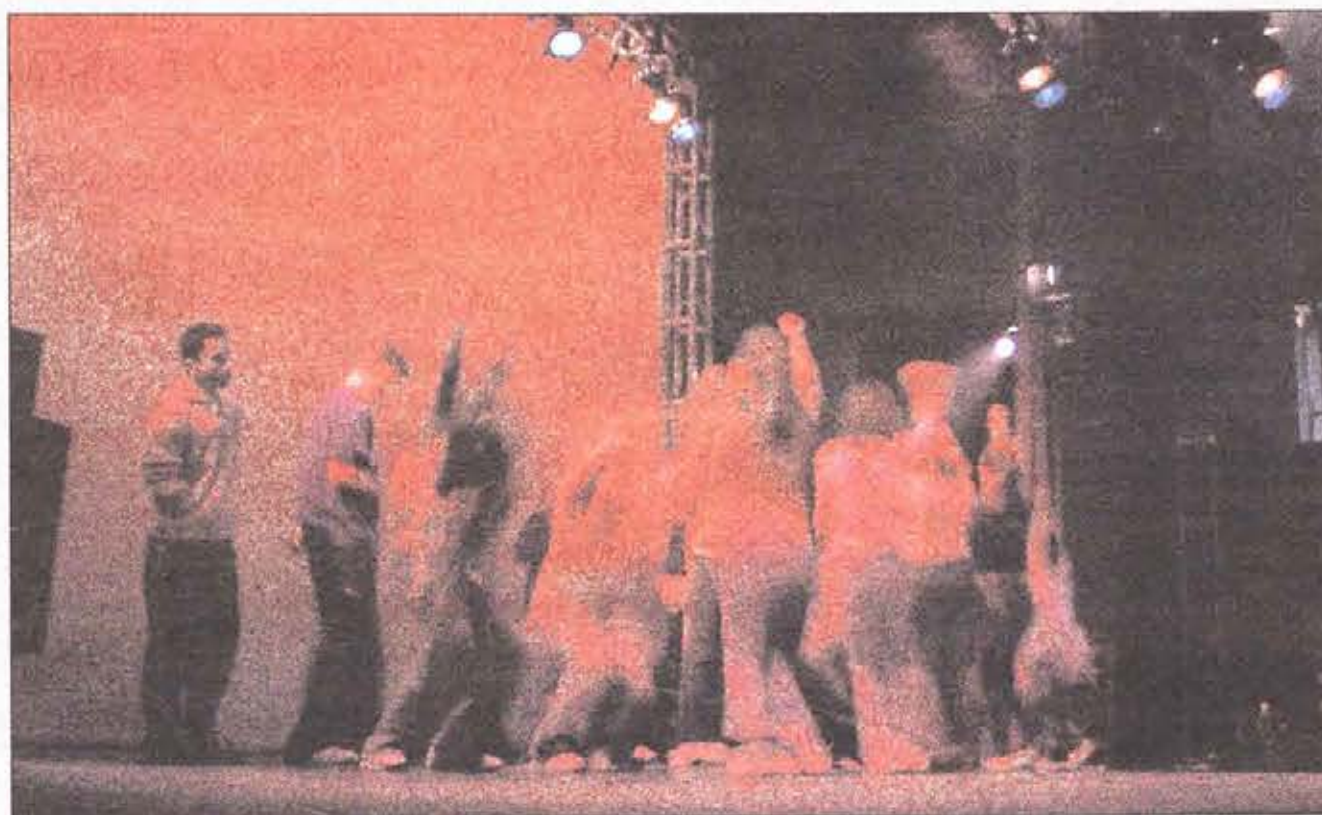
Friday's game against the Ottawa GeeGees would be the most crucial game for the Hawks this season. A loss would certainly see their brief tournament come to an end, but a win would put them into a contention for a chance at CIS gold. The beginning of the game saw the Hawks look sluggish and almost sedated as it

### WLU 4 Ottawa 3

seemed they were still thinking about the heartbreaking loss versus the Huskies on Thursday. Only 45 seconds into the game Ottawa's Rebecka Jennison gave the GeeGees an early lead by slipping one past Stein. Seven minutes later, the GeeGees would capitalize again when Mandi Duhamel scored to give the GeeGees a commanding 2 - 0 lead going into the first intermission. Coach Rick Osborne commented on the play of his team and his approach during that first intermission. "During the first intermission, I had a controlled outburst. That was the worst we had played since I have been coach here. But the players responded like they have all season and went out and got it done."

The second period would be a different story for the

*continued on page 21*



Andrew Lynch

These dancers are fashionably in motion at this year's show, Modus Operandi, which featured over 175 volunteers, three days of sold out shows and \$20,000 worth of lighting alone.

## Magical motion

*Fashion 'n Motion's annual romp  
much improved over previous years*

**Show:** Fashion 'n Motion  
**Date:** May 13, 2004  
**Features:** An entertaining  
song and dance  
spectacular

**APRIL CUNNINGHAM**  
News Editor

When it comes to WLUSU events, there are two particular occasions that stick out in my mind. The first is Orientation Week where Laurier pride takes over Waterloo in a flood of blue, red, gold, and green while hundreds of tireless volunteers work with the frosh to break previous Shinerama

records for victims of Cystic Fibrosis.

Sometime during O-Week, new students are bound to hear about the second most noteworthy event: the infamous "F 'n M" or at least see groups of volunteers break out in choreographed dancing on Willison Field. I remember asking myself in first year, "what is this dancing fever Laurier seems to have?"

This fever is what has fueled some 175 students this year to create probably the most groundbreaking Fashion 'n Motion production since its birth a few years ago. F 'n M calls itself

a 'high energy dance and fashion show.'

A quality storyline, outstanding lighting, and comprehensive staging complete with a runway all contributed to make the event, entitled "M.O.," which stands for Modus Operandi, substantially better than last year's production.

Producers managed to tie together an eclectic mix of music and dancing styles through a themed mystery storyline. It was successful at showcasing a variety of dance talents that seemed to reflect the diversity of ideas and artistic creativity of the Laurier community. Though not thought-provoking or enlightening, the production's main goal, to entertain on a fun level was definitely reached.

*Continued on page 16*



Brandon Currie

The Cord's Spanish correspondent, Brandon Currie, marched with hundreds of thousands of Spaniards through the streets of Alicante in mourning of the recent tragedy in Madrid.

## Frightened by fear in Spain

**Spain  
Correspondent**

**Brandon  
Currie**

ALICANTE, SPAIN - I couldn't understand the words, but the images on the TV screen told a story that was impossible to describe in any language. I rushed to the university to find an English account of the events; dozens killed, thousands hurt and a nation scorched yet again by a barbarous act of terrorism.

I'd never noticed that I had an imaginary 'I'll always be safe from those atrocities that happen over there' bubble until it was

gone. Seeing the same cercanias that I have travelled on blown apart, having friends in Madrid that I thought could have been hurt, calming worried parents and exchange coordinators and even living in national proximity to Madrid has evaporated that comfortable security.

My friends want to avoid large public events. I don't want to go anywhere near the train station and I find myself a little antsy taking the public bus to school. It's not a primal fear, but a minute feeling somewhere in my subconscious that something bad could happen. Not a probability, but even the spectre of possibility can be scary.

*Continued on page 12*





# Referendum

On March 24, 25, 26, members of the Wilfrid Laurier University Student Publications will be asked the following referendum question on the election ballot:

**“Be it resolved that the 2002-2003 Wilfrid Laurier Student Publications audited financial statements be passed as presented.”**

For more information about these statements please contact Tunde Igli at [tunde.igli@wlusp.com](mailto:tunde.igli@wlusp.com) or at 884-0710 ext. 3559.



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## Auditors' Report

### To the Students of Wilfrid Laurier University

We have audited the statement of financial position of **Wilfrid Laurier University Student Publications** at April 30, 2003 and the statements of operations, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the organization's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In our opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the organization as at April 30, 2003 and the results of its operations and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

*Collins Barrow*

Chartered Accountants

Waterloo, Ontario  
March 2, 2004

### Wilfrid Laurier University Student Publications

#### Statement of Changes in Net Assets

Year Ended April 30, 2003

|   | 2003       | 2002       |
|---|------------|------------|
| Balance, beginning                                | \$ 152,272 | \$ 140,308 |
| Net excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses | (14,679)   | 11,964     |
| Balance, ending                                   | \$ 137,593 | \$ 152,272 |

### Wilfrid Laurier University Student Publications

#### Statement of Financial Position

April 30, 2003

|  | 2003       | 2002       |
|--|------------|------------|
| <b>Assets</b>                          |            |            |
| <b>Current</b>                         |            |            |
| Cash and short term investments        | \$ 110,634 | \$ 105,043 |
| Accounts receivable                    | 50,832     | 18,862     |
|  | 161,466    | 123,905    |
| Property, plant and equipment (note 3) | 24,927     | 37,195     |
|  | \$ 186,403 | \$ 161,100 |
| <b>Liabilities</b>                     |            |            |
| <b>Current</b>                         |            |            |
| Accounts payable and accrued charges   | \$ 48,810  | \$ 8,828   |
|  | 137,593    | 152,272    |
| <b>Net Assets</b>                      | \$ 186,403 | \$ 161,100 |

### Wilfrid Laurier University Student Publications

#### Statement of Operations

Year Ended April 30, 2003

|   | 2003        | 2002       |
|---|-------------|------------|
| <b>Revenues</b>                                   |             |            |
| Cord sales and advertising                        | \$ 123,868  | \$ 125,608 |
| Keystone sales and advertising                    | 37,942      | 43,450     |
| Student activity fees                             | 75,378      | 67,930     |
| Other revenue                                     | 6,190       | 18,138     |
|   | 243,378     | 255,126    |
| <b>Expenses</b>                                   |             |            |
| Administration, legal and audit                   | 18,032      | 3,135      |
| Amortization of capital assets                    | 13,573      | 17,529     |
| Bad debts   | 5,604       | 986        |
| Bank charges and interest                         | 325         | 65         |
| Conferences and meetings                          | 4,054       | 8,052      |
| Insurance   | 3,170       | 3,020      |
| Miscellaneous                                     | 6,575       | 9,347      |
| Office  | 4,541       | 7,696      |
| Publishing and production                         | 99,702      | 92,789     |
| Rent  | 17,179      | 15,330     |
| Supplies  | 1,349       | 2,543      |
| Wages, benefits and certifications                | 83,953      | 87,883     |
|   | 258,057     | 243,162    |
| Net excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses | \$ (14,679) | \$ 11,964  |



# Election concerns in Brantford

WLUSU Director-elect Nick Murphy voices problems with the upcoming vote at Laurier's satellite campus

JENNIFER ASSELIN  
News Editor

In just one day Laurier Brantford students will cast their vote for their first elected Campus Commissioner.

The two candidates in the election, second year student Kevin Adams and third year student Sarah Neziol are running for the position that, in the past, has been hired.

With the adoption of this new election also comes student concern especially because of the distance between the main campus, where the Chief Returning Officer and Elections and Referenda Committee reside and the satellite campus where the campaigning has been under way since March 11.

"[The election's] just been poorly organized," commented Nick Murphy, a student at Brantford as well as a WLUSU Director-elect.

Murphy has a number of problems with the way things are being run and voiced these concerns in a letter submitted to CRO Jill Promoli. Murphy complained that candidates were breaking poster policy by using bristol board and posting them in residence as well as accusations of slander.

"Only yesterday did we know where the open forum was going to be," he pointed out when the forum was to be held the next day. "This is our first election and it's important to us and there

hasn't been a lot of communication," said Murphy. "It's been really displeasing."

"There's no problems," Promoli said in response to Murphy's concerns.

Promoli noted that posters are allowed to be done on bristol board as long as it adheres to the size rules of being no larger than 11" by 17". She also clarified that the other issues Murphy had were addressed accordingly including his concerns with candidates campaigning early.

In a written response to Murphy's letter, Promoli pointed out that she, as well as the Chair of the Elections and Referenda Committee, are full-time students who hold part-time jobs.

"We unfortunately are not able to take more time from our classes and work to come to Brantford aside from the three dates already specified within the week long election period," she said.

"I doubt she said that when she went for the job," commented Murphy with regards to her prior commitments. "This is their job and they're not doing it," he continued. "This is just another classic case of the distance being an excuse."

Promoli also pointed out Heather Barrie, the current campus commissioner's role in notifying her of any policy violations as well as dealing with logistical aspects of the campaign such as booking rooms.



Jennifer Asselin

This student wishes she could be a part of the Campus Commissioner election but she does not attend classes at the Brantford campus. However, even if she wanted to, her sign is clearly too large.

However, Murphy pointed out that Barrie signed Neziol's nomination form and therefore questioned her position as a liaison during the campaign period. Promoli cleared up any misunderstandings by acknowledging Barrie's actions. She explained that because of the situation Barrie has been removed from any official election duties but that she is still, "our hands there".

Dan Herman, WLUSU

President also addressed Murphy's concerns. "From my knowledge in discussions with the CRO and Elections and Referenda between now and the opening of the campaign period, things are progressing," he said. "There have been logistical issues but that's to be expected since it's never been done before."

In addressing the issue of not having enough information go out to Brantford students and Murphy's problems

with Barrie, Herman noted that it was the only option since no one at the Brantford campus seemed interested in looking after the logistics of the election. "We tried very hard to hire an HDRO (Head Deputy Returning Officer) in Brantford and despite three weeks of searching, we had nothing," he said.

Promoli summed it up. "It's really difficult to run an election for one campus from another campus."

# STI on the rise in Waterloo

The number of cases of chlamydia is increasing in the K-W area

BLAIR FORSYTH-STARK  
Staff Writer

Chlamydia, a common yet serious sexually transmitted infection (STI), is on the rise in Waterloo. According to a report issued by the Public Health Unit, cases of chlamydia rose from 603 in 2001 to 689 in 2002. Of these cases, 372 victims were young women between the ages of 15 and 24.

Often showing no symptoms, chlamydia is a bacterial infection that can be transmitted through oral, vaginal or anal sexual contact with an infected partner. Some females may experience a new or different vaginal discharge, a burning feeling when urinating, pain in the lower abdomen, sometimes with fever and chills, pain during sex, vaginal bleeding between periods and vaginal bleeding after intercourse.

Ingrid Goll, Manager of Health Services at Wilfrid Laurier, is "quite aware" of the rise in cases of the STI as she is a member of the Public Health Sexual Planning Network.

When asked if she noticed a definite increase in cases at Laurier, Goll responded that while "there have been positive cases, I can't definitely say whether there is an increase compared to past years."

Dianne Roedding, is a

Public Health Nurse with the AIDS/STD program at the Region of Waterloo Public Health Unit and is also a member of the committee. She feels that chlamydia is on the rise for two reasons.

"Basically, because there are no symptoms, people don't realize that they could be infecting others and secondly, people just aren't practicing safe sex and they are taking chances with their health."

"All STDs can be passed through all types of sex [oral, vaginal, anal]...we're seeing that people are practicing oral and anal sex more because they feel they can't

**"We're seeing that people are practicing oral and anal sex more because they feel they can't get pregnant."**

-Dianne Roedding, Public Health Nurse

get pregnant; but they can still get diseases," says Roedding. "Oral sex is sex."

Approximately a year and a half ago, there was a campaign to raise awareness about the disease and get women tested for it when

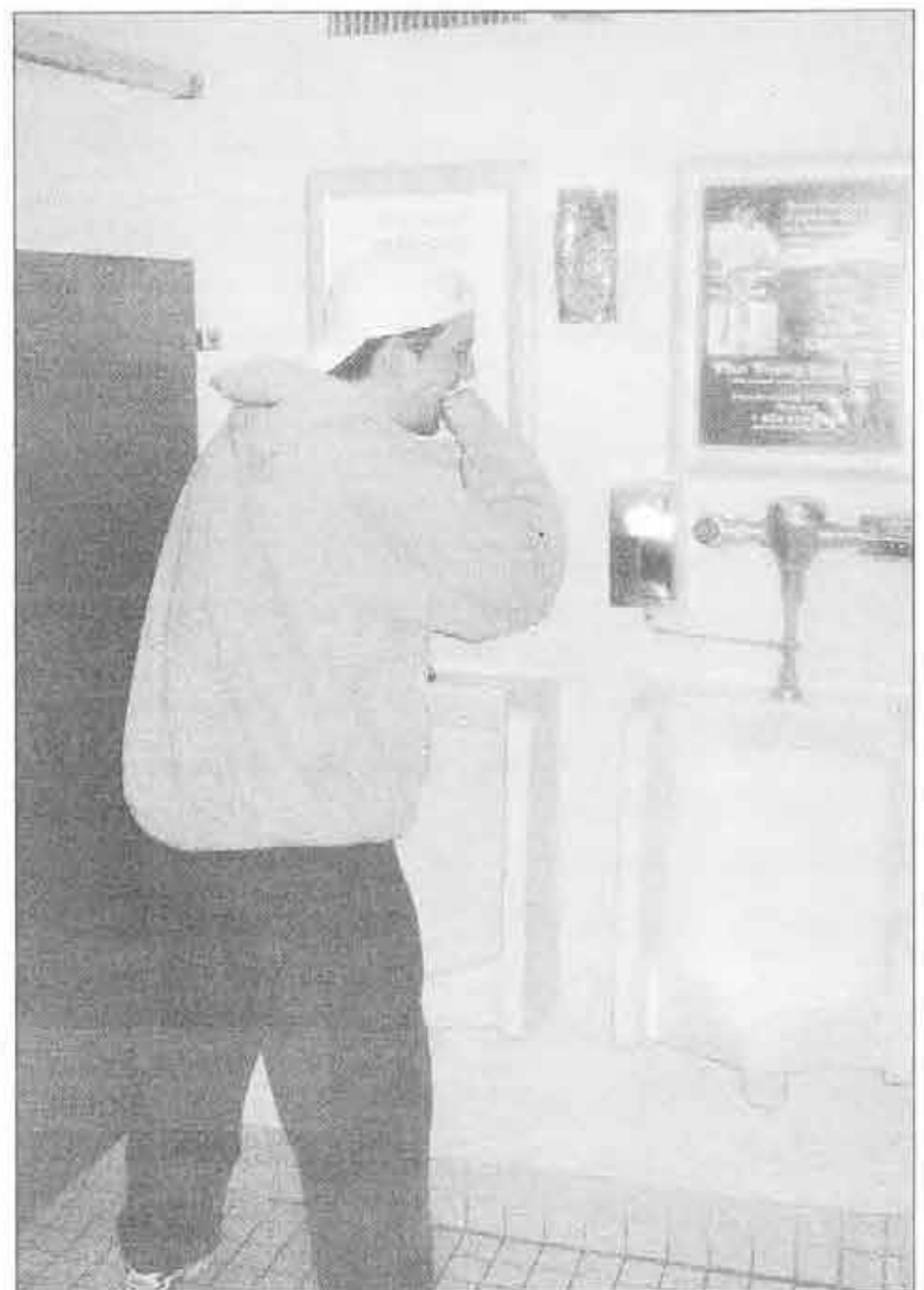
they were getting their Pap Test, a screening test for malignant and premalignant changes of the cervix. Female students who receive the Pap Test at Wilfrid Laurier's Health Services automatically receive a test for chlamydia and other STIs according to Goll.

If left untreated, chlamydia can cause a painful, long-term condition called Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (PID) in women as well as infertility.

Men may not experience symptoms either but some may notice a watery or milky drip from the penis, an itchy feeling inside the penis, a burning feeling when urinating, and pain or swelling in the testicles. If left untreated, chlamydia may cause sterility in men.

Chlamydia is completely treatable. In most cases, a simple oral antibiotic gets rid of the infection. However, Goll warns that while it is treatable, if students are planning to have sex, always use a condom. She advises that if you are sexually active and have had unprotected sex, to get tested for your benefit and the benefit of your partner.

If you are concerned and want to get tested, there is a free and confidential clinic Mondays and Thursdays from 3:00-6:00pm at 99 Regina St. S. Call 883-2247 for more info. No appointment is necessary. Also, all tests can be performed confidentially and for free at Health Services.



Wilbur McLean

This man is clearly in pain while trying to relieve himself. He may be experiencing symptoms of chlamydia and should see a doctor.



# Open forum lacklustre



**News Opinion**

Jeffrey Hawkins

Last week, a Wilfrid Laurier Students' Union Board of Directors open forum was held in the Concourse but very few students cared to show up. Almost all board members were present, even some newly elected members; however their messages were met with dismal attendance.

On the agenda were several key issues including Turret Thursdays shifting to Friday, the ethics of turnitin.com, green space on campus and a proposed ice rink for next winter. Oh and for about less than a minute, they discussed the issue of where Student Publications might relocate themselves, outside of the possibility of moving into the editor-in-chief's basement.

Since there are only a few meetings left for this year's WLUSU BOD, one would have thought more students would show up, especially since this particular meeting was held right in the middle of the Concourse.

The small crowd that did attend consisted of the usual outspoken students, such as Kevin Spahich, Mike Borrelli and Tudor Costache, who mainly voiced opinions on subjects that few other students are even remotely aware of.

The topic of shifting Turret Thursdays to Friday drew little attention or questioning from the small crowd and predominately consisted of a two-minute promo for the Turret.

Green space was addressed with little concern from the other board members, aside from JD Muir's statement that "we will need to continue to conduct more research on the issue." For those of you unfamiliar with Muir's proposal, he intends on increasing the green

space on campus by added foliage, improvements to the campus soil and possibly increasing the usage of certain types of ivy on the side of buildings, "as long as it's not on the Peter's building," he said.

Turnitin.com was mentioned with a bit more enthusiasm and received some reception from the audience. The issue of whether it should be used or not was the prime concern. Meighan Doherty, WLUSU Vice President: University Affairs, stated that "from what I've gathered, students are okay with it. They aren't going to get rid of it because professors like it." In addition, she added that if students are unhappy with turnitin.com, they should voice their opinions so that she can assemble some form of policy.

There was also talk of initiating an ice rink on the tennis courts of Willison Field for next winter. However, the insurance issues are still being worked out.

Aside from the continuous comments from ex-BOD member Borrelli and some of the rather ambiguous questions from Costache, the meeting was a flawed victory.

The BOD members can now claim that they attempted to engage with the students in a democratic manner. However, the students were hardly engaged and for the most part, saw fit to walk right in front of the podium completely oblivious to the speakers.

The highlight came at the end of the meeting when Borrelli asked BOD members: "What is the most important thing you've done this year for WLU?" Astonishingly, almost every BOD member launched right into what they are intending to do and what they have been working on for the last few weeks. The ice rink, the ivy on the sides of schools, all of these ideas and more were merely reiterated to Borrelli who, to the utter amazement of this journalist, was apparently satisfied with their responses.

waiting for their preliminary hearings.

Olaf Heinzel, representative for the Waterloo Regional Police, said the courts are very backlogged.

"It's not unheard of to wait several months," he said. He added that at the preliminary hearing, the Crown would present evidence to convince the judge of the need for a trial. It is also a possibility that police are still collecting evidence.

Derek Medler, who was an all-star running back, was charged with forcible confinement and accessory after the fact in an attempted murder in conjunction with a shooting which left a Kitchener man wounded.

Two other Laurier football players, Jeff Melis and Ryan McGuffin, were charged with aggravated assault in connection with the beating of a University of Waterloo student.

## News Bites



**Yahoo! accuses Kitchener spammers**

Three men from Kitchener have been accused of dispersing more than 84 million pieces of spam.

Yahoo!, a US-based internet company, filed the lawsuit on March 10 against Barry Head and his two sons, Eric and Matthew.

The slew of spam junk e-mails caused the "single greatest disruption" to their network according to Yahoo!. The company's filtering technology was not able to identify the spammers' mail as junk.

The Kitchener men are not alone. Yahoo!, Microsoft Corp., America Online Inc. and Earthlink Inc. are targeting hundreds of other spammers in civil lawsuits in the US.

**Charged football players await hearings**

Former varsity football players for WLU who were involved in two separate incidents late in 2003 are still

Compiled by April Cunningham

# New chief chosen

*The Cord Weekly* hires Caitlin A. Howlett, current Production Manager, as next year's editor-in-chief

**APRIL CUNNINGHAM**  
News Editor

A new Editor-in-Chief has been hired for *The Cord Weekly* for 2004-2005. Caitlin Howlett, who is the Production Manager for this year's newspaper, will begin her new position May 1.

She said there were a lot of reasons why she wanted to be the Editor-in-Chief, but primarily, it was how much "I love *The Cord* and being a part of it."

Howlett has been on staff for *The Cord* for almost three years. She has been a Sports writer and columnist, as well as Sports Editor for "a short stint." After that, she was Assignment Editor, a special position created to help a new EIC last year.

**"My experience allows me to look at *The Cord* from a variety of perspectives and a variety of angles."**

-Caitlin A. Howlett, Editor-in-Chief for 2004-05

Aside from *The Cord*, Howlett works at The Hub, has played varsity lacrosse, and hosts the RadioLaurier show, "Duelling Banjos."

"[My experience] shows I'm committed in all aspects of school, not just *The Cord*," she said. "It allows me to look at *The Cord* from a variety of perspectives and a variety of angles."

Although Howlett is "elated" to be the new EIC, she knows the job will be a challenge too.

"There are so many things

you have to account for on a regular basis," she said, referring to both details in the paper as well as writers and volunteers.

"It's a training ground for future journalists."

With the permission of WLUSU's board of directors, Howlett hopes to implement unsigned editorials for the Opinion section. She would like the editorials to tackle issues affecting the local

community along with national and international debate.

"I hope it gives [the paper] a more professional appeal and will encourage provocative discussion."

Howlett is looking forward to the challenges of taking on this new role. "I can't think of a better way to spend my fifth year at Laurier," she said with a smile.



Jennifer Asselin

Howlett sits at a computer in the current WLUSU office. Where will this new editor-in-chief work next year? No one knows.

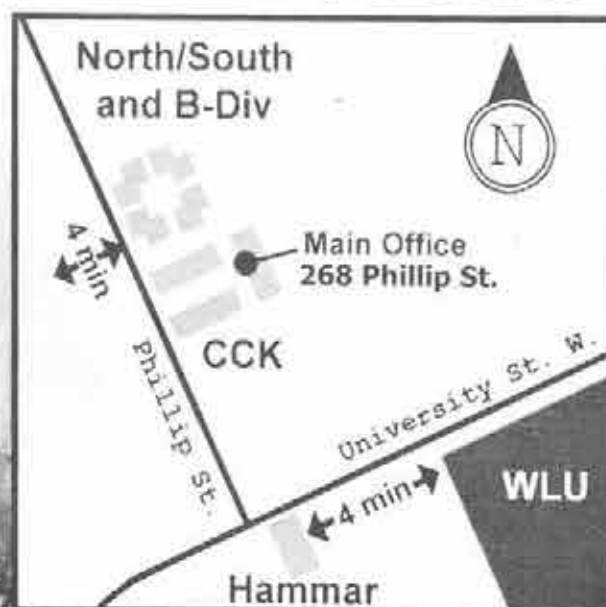
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## Snowy Forecast: Apparently we aren't out of the clear yet

| WEDNESDAY                                     | THURSDAY   | FRIDAY   | SATURDAY  | SUNDAY   |
|---|--|--|---|--|
| Cloudy<br>High 1°C<br>Low -10°C<br>P.O.P. 40% | Rain or snow<br>High 4°C<br>Low -4°C<br>P.O.P. 60% | Wet snow<br>High 4°C<br>Low -3°C<br>P.O.P. 80% | Light snow<br>High 1°C<br>Low -7°C<br>P.O.P. 100% | A few flurries<br>High 0°C<br>Low -3°C<br>P.O.P. 40% |

# Prof evaluations need revamping

Students take professor evaluations into own hands as Arts Council launches new assessment format

ANDREW DUGGAN  
Staff Writer

Students and professors at Laurier both seem to be in agreement that the current system of professor evaluations is inadequate and that they don't deliver enough effective feedback.

"I think the current evaluations are a complete waste of time and don't accomplish anything," said Chris Moses, a first year psychology student.

The Students' Arts Council is launching a campaign to change the current professor evaluations and introduce a new system that would allow professors and students to have more of an open discussion on teaching methods.

"Right now nobody's happy with the professor evaluations," said Jen Mitchell, a member of the Arts Council and WLUSU Director-elect.

"We want to open an

avenue to tell teachers about their teaching style."

There is currently a contractual agreement in place with the Faculty Association that limits any change to the current evaluation process until the contract is re-negotiated in June 2005.

In the meantime the Students' Arts Council is promoting a system of interim evaluations so that professors can hear the opinions and suggestions of their students, rather than just vague numbers.

"We want to start a dialogue. Students are responsible enough to give constructive criticism," said Mitchell.

The idea has been received well within the school and

many faculty members are excited about the idea, including Dean of Arts, Dr. Robert Campbell.

The Arts Council has developed a few options that students and professors can use on a voluntary basis to improve feedback.

One such option is a start/stop/continue idea, which would let professors know what they should stop, start or continue doing in lectures.

Another option available is a one minute paper that students write to answer questions like, "In this specific lecture briefly explain what you learned."

The final option available is a 60-question survey,

which asks very specific questions about the professor and the lecture, as well as tailored questions that the professor can add at their discretion.

It is hoped that these fresh ideas on professor evaluations will be incorporated into the new contract and allow students and professors to understand one another better.

As Mitchell says, "We want to take an active role in our own learning."

Discuss this article on  
thuron. <http://www.cbc.ca/thuron>

## Music student remembered

MICHELLE PINCHEV  
Staff Writer

The Wilfrid Laurier music community suffered a great loss this year with the passing of music student Ian Beard. The multi-talented student died earlier this month after a four-year battle with cancer.

Growing up in Brantford, Ontario where his father taught music, it was not surprising that Beard himself entered the music program at WLU in 1997 with aspirations of teaching music as well.

"He has always been very active with the musical community there, particularly the Brantford Memorial Band," says Michael Purves-Smith, who taught Beard in conducting, orchestration and as a player in Laurier's wind ensemble.

At Laurier, Beard became fascinated with the trumpet and inspired by his teacher Guy Few, who worked with him often. Tragically, Beard became ill in his last year and was unable to complete his performance degree. Despite his illness, even as he endured chemotherapy, he continued to play and improve.

"We remember Ian fondly as an important part of the student body at the Faculty of Music at WLU," says Few. "He was a tall, strong man with a big voice and an even bigger presence. Humour and music were both a big part of his life."

His passing came as a surprise to some, as at certain times, his battle against cancer was successful and Beard even returned to his studies and the WLU orchestra.

Many Laurier students attended Beard's memorial service, which was highlighted by a performance by Few and Beard's friend, Stephanie Mara, who was also his studio pianist and coach. They played Adagio from the Concerto for Corno da Caccia by Neruda.

Beard will be honoured again this month on March 28 as part of the orchestra concert, under Paul Pulford. Few will be playing flugelhorn and sharing a solo with Darren Kools in a new composition by Michael Purves-Smith, with the participation of the orchestra brass and percussion.

Beard was "an unforgettable fellow in many ways," said Purves-Smith.

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"He looks wartorn."

-April Cunningham, in reference to Brandon Currie's odd photo for his cover story this week.

## EDITORIAL BOARD

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Congratulations Caitlin (who would like to thank McMullan's and the end of EIC hiring)! A big thank you to Mike for the door idea. Also, thanks to Bob, Little Guy, Angela's cake bakers, irony, and Waterloo Bowling Lanes. Sports, leave the funk to George Clinton. Bryan, clearly the best applicant was overlooked. WLUSU, what are you thinking? No thanks to WLUSU. Or doors that don't open. Jackie, I don't know if I can handle another movie like the last one, even if it did inspire my new haircut.

-Stefan "Wolfman" Sereda

All for not staying on the post, causing us to lose by one goal to the first place team... Princess Lanes, Louie's, Wilf's and Chris's house for all the fun on Saturday... Carly and Katie for their ever-so-humorous encounter with the Louie's bouncer: "C'mon, it's her birthday!" and the Louie's bouncer for stating the obvious by telling me, "Your friend here is intoxicated" in reference to Katie... Andre for leaving me a message where he does nothing but bark and growl at me. I'll walk you but I refuse to poop 'n scoop... Danielle for still loving me and blessing me with DVDs... Winky for winning and bringing such joy to a certain person's life... Marianna for being such a Princess and for looking for this on Wednesday morning... I wanted to start year-end thank-yous but have no room... Just two left-W.M.

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## 192 dead, but which country is really afraid?

Some people put off death by leaving a legacy, but the United States staves off death by worrying about themselves



Student Life  
Editor

Erika  
Ivanic

Within the steady continuum that has been given the brand of time lies the insignificance of my existence.

Today I was here, tomorrow I might not be. Just as rapidly as the forces of nature brought me into this world might I be removed from the bliss and horror of it all. Death is a sobering thought.

It's funny how desperately one individual craves to make him or herself known amidst the billions of people that exist in this world. Celebrities, musicians, actors, sports players, government officials, millionaires, game show hosts and journalists, to name a few. The list continues on, ad infinitum. All of these people strive to create and secure a name for themselves in hopes that their existence will persist long after their physical manifestations have passed away. These people hope they don't just drift through their lives but are worth being recorded in books or on the big screen for future generations to admire and discuss at length.

Their ultimate dream is one of immortality.

Then there are those who remain content in making a difference in the lives of those around them. They remain anonymous because it is not the names that matter, but the acts of kindness themselves. Social psychology preaches the concept of altruism and doing something entirely for the welfare of another. When was the last time you put your needs behind another human being without any hidden benefits for yourself? Has the triumph of individualism created a generation completely entangled

When was the last time you put your needs behind another human being without any hidden benefits for yourself?

in selfishness?

While reading last Friday's *Toronto Star* regarding recent events in Spain, I was struck with the reporter's underlying concern of how this would affect America. With 192 people dead, the fate of the Western world remains the ultimate affair that must be protected to all ends. Never mind by what that means. Just like those

aforementioned people who want to create a name for themselves, the US wants to reign and be remembered as the most powerful nation on earth. Altruism, anyone?

America desires to leave its name behind in books, in movies, in the minds of everyone everywhere all of the time. And when the current individuals in power cease to exist, they crave that the fear instilled by their name will linger on into the future.

Well, I have a few words for the United States of America: you are not alone in this world and your existence will forever be one of mortality. One day you will die just like the rest of us and return to the earth from which you were born, so accept the futility of your being. You are not superior to anyone else, and will remain barely a speck of dust that blew in the wind for not even a fraction of a second within the grand scheme of the universe itself.

What I'm calling for here is an acceptance of one's humanity. As an idealist, I maintain that there is hope for the human race, particularly for us unfortunate individuals who were graced with an existence in Western society. This hope is demonstrated through altruistic acts, through people who care to make a difference for others and not for the ulterior motive of creating a name for themselves.

Today, perhaps, I live in hypocrisy by claiming my existence in this world with words on a page and a new title. So I ask that you read this and continue to reflect on my ideas, but let my name fade into nothingness.

## Letters to The Cord

letters@wlusp.com

## Anti-Zionism, or anti-Semitism?

Bryn Boyce's distasteful screed, "The Boy who cried anti-Semitism" (*The Cord Weekly*, Mar. 10, 2004), is a perfect example of why the trendy anti-Zionism common in the contemporary left is so disconnected from reality. Boyce is undoubtedly correct in stating that criticism of Israel need not be considered anti-Semitism. However this condemnation swiftly becomes anti-Semitic when standards and criticisms are hypocritically applied to Israel, but not to others.

Boyce's article displays this anti-Semitism, as he proceeds in his piece to slander Zionism - the Jewish aspiration for a homeland. The fact is that Zionism is Jewish nationalism. Is Mr. Boyce equally appalled at Arab nationalism, French nationalism or Canadian nationalism for that matter? There are 57 different nations that are members of the Islamic Conference and 22 nations that are members of the Arab League. Does Mr. Boyce find these religious and ethnic states as "ridiculous" and "backwards" as one, single Jewish state?

To deny that anti-Semitism exists where it is so clearly prevalent is quite hazardous. Just recently, a European Union report on anti-Semitism reflected so poorly on Europe that it could not even be officially released to the public. Not only has Boyce failed to recognize the growing trend of anti-Semitism in Europe, he has even ignored the dangers within his own country. Considering that Boyce deems it necessary to disregard violent anti-Semitic acts in Europe, one can't help but wonder what he proposes to do about these events

taking place in Canada.

Freedom of expression is always an important issue on university campuses. This being said, however, any ludicrous comparisons of Nazi Germany to Israel, or repeated acts of willfully ignoring modern anti-Semitism are nothing more than hatred and bigotry. The only way to counter this blind intolerance is to identify it rapidly and publicly reject it on all accounts. Canada today may not be on the same scale as countries like France when it comes to anti-Semitism, but if anti-Semites aren't singled-out and censured for their prejudices, it won't be long before this country follows suit. Such anti-religious actions could include banning religious headaddresses, large crosses and skull caps in its institutions as well.

Tamir Bar-Haim  
President  
Laurier-Israel Public Affairs Club

## Double shame

Bryn Boyce's article in the March 19, 2004 edition of *The Cord* is not merely a reflection of poor taste, misinformation, unsubstantiated or uncorroborated fact, fabrication, poor analysis, and ultimately anti-Semitism. Permitting the article to be printed as anything other than an opinion piece, and even then, is also a reflection of the aforementioned qualities in Wilfrid Laurier University. Shame on you.

I noticed that Mr. Boyce has been given the title of "International Editor". I would welcome a fact-based article from him, properly cited, explaining the history of Israel, the relation-

ship of Zionism with the holocaust and how the Palestinians arrived at their current situation. I would also welcome some consistency from Mr. Boyce, who denounces Zionism, and have him apply the same rationale with respect to his objection to Zionism to other Middle-Eastern countries (like Iran, Saudi Arabia, Syria, etc.). How many Jews now live in these countries? How many Jews did live in these countries? What rights do or did they have, etc.? And of course, with respect to each country mentioned, what percentage of its constituents are Muslim (in one form or another)?

Adam Wiseberg

## Downsizing Williams

One question regarding Tyler Williams' "It's here to stay" (*The Cord Weekly*, March 10, 2004): could Williams have written a more trite and poorly researched analysis of globalization?

I'm not a world-renowned expert on globalization, but I don't think I'm too out of left field when I question the veracity of some of the author's points, or wonder where he is coming from. First, who are the "anti-globalization" people he's so quick to condemn? I have been involved in the Global Justice movement for a few years now, and I can't recall a single person who called for more trade barriers or wanted to end globalization outright. Perhaps Mr. Williams would benefit from some research on these protesters, as he would discover that the vast majority of them are not 'anti-globalization', but against

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# Shifty's TOP 10

Favourite Irish exports and personalities



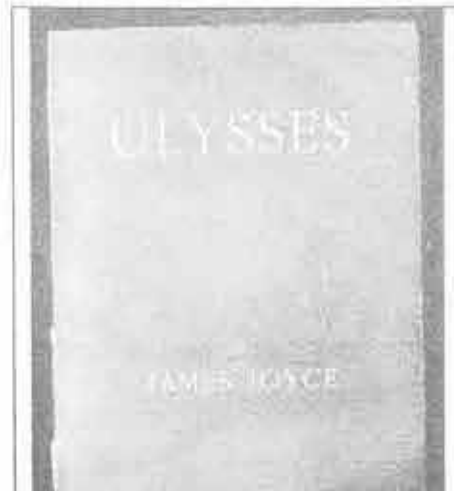
10. The Leprechaun myth, especially for spawning the "Leprechaun" films.



8. The Commitments, who defined European soul music on their "Try a Little Tenderness"



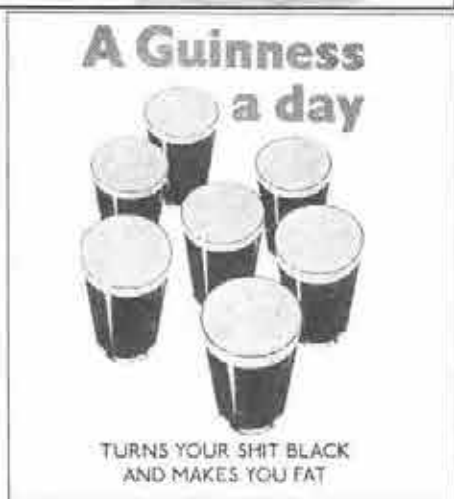
6. Oscar Wilde. He displayed pictures of Dorian Gray and bugery trials for the world to see.



4. James Joyce. A pillar of modernism and a half-decent writer. He's no Danielle Steele, though.



2. Snakes.



9. Guinness, although I wish I had the constitution to handle a whole pint.



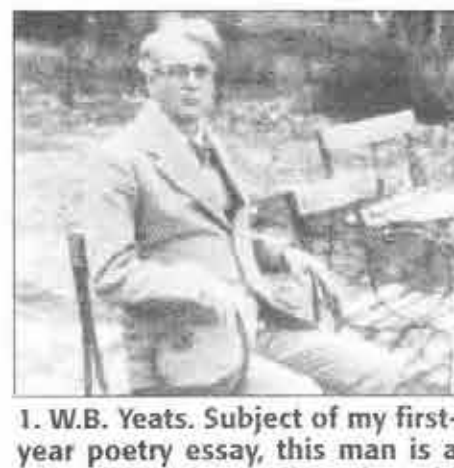
7. Van Morrison. The man wrote "Moondance," "Brown Eyed Girl," "Domino" and "Gloria."



5. Potatoes. Let's face it, if you don't like potatoes, you might as well be blacklisted from society.



3. U2. How many human rights activists can say they recorded "Achtung Baby"?



1. W.B. Yeats. Subject of my first-year poetry essay, this man is a pivotal figure in Irish and world history. Best poem: "Hey-Ya."

# Doors of deception



Opinion Editor

Stefan Sereda

If there is one on-campus phenomenon that vexes both business and arts students, that interferes with everybody's day and that embarrasses everyone equally because it's even more awkward and difficult to get through than this sentence, it's the doors.

Anyone who has ever participated in the daily stampede from the cafeteria to classes in the DAWB or the Peters' Building will empathize. Every student is breezing along thinking about how miserable their macroeconomics midterm is going to be, how they finally scored a date for "Old Skool Funk Night" at Phil's, or whatever else goes through the average student's head when KER-BLAMMO-BLAM!!! Congratulations, you just walked into one of Laurier's many ambiguous doors. You have glass in your hand, shoulder and eyeball. Call PP&P; maybe Security Services has a slow-motion tape of the impact and aftermath they can play in "Responsible Door-Opening" class. Amid the shock of ramming into one of these death-traps, all your brain can manage is: "I hope my date for Old-Skool Funk Night didn't see that," and, "Was it a 'push' door, or a 'pull'?"

Notorious for such ambiguity and trauma are the doors between the Concourse and the cafeteria. If you check statistics, I bet more students die trying to go through those doors than from spontaneous combustion. To put it as bluntly as walking into a door, the design of these doors is confusing. One set of 'pull' doors that look like they are meant for pushing were so shoddily crafted that they led one Michael Conway, bless his soul, to put a 'pull' sticker on the door panel during his election campaign. Similarly, one set of doors between the Paul Martin Centre and the

Torque Room has the exact same handles on both sides. Located in a high-traffic area, these doors beckon the oblivious walker forth like a blue light does mosquitoes.

The "Do I push or pull?" fiesta continues all the way up to the third floor of the Nichols Building. The doors in the Hall of Fame make a mediocre effort by inscribing those two simple words every student longs to read on the first set of doors upstairs. I'm sure the words are really easy to read by busy people when traffic is heavy and "pull" is written smaller than the average size of a human hand.

Then you get upstairs and oh, my stars and garters, the door handles are the same again! As it turns out, the situation becomes increasingly dire as you ascend to the next level of Door-Opening Hell. Instead of user-friendly door handles that even a Foot Patrol on their way to the Zoo could use, the Union opted to install terribly impractical handles, probably because they looked kickin' radical back when "Everything I Do (I Do It For You)" was a hit.

The theme of doors that take nothing short of astronaut training to open recurs all over campus. From cramped doors that open into each other's window panes in the Peters Building to steel doors with tiny windows ready to slam into whatever unsuspecting individual is on the other side, WLU doors need rethinking. Most people charge into them and take a bruising (physical or emotional due to the laughter of others) and then go about their business because they have more important issues to deal with.

WLUSU directors should be looking into the door problem. Since the BOD is prohibited from engaging in any substantial Union decision (VP hiring comes to mind), little physical changes that will improve campus safety and reduce displays of idiocy could be looked at. "I fixed the doors on campus" is a good answer to, "What action did you take last year that is worth my vote this year?" And considering the WLUSU

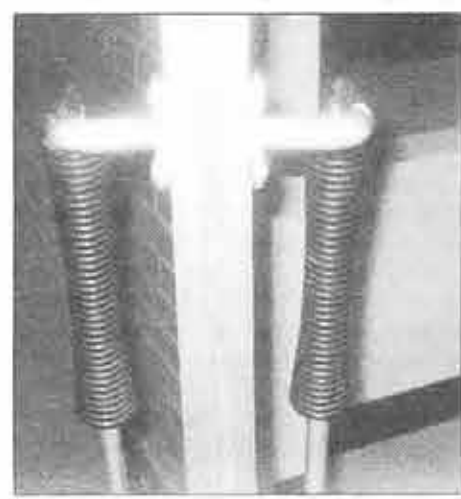
trend that suggests most of their big decisions will be mistakes obvious enough to make Clinton blush (removing the Student Publications office comes to mind), reworking little aspects of student life might be more productive.

Think about it the next time you try to pull instead of push a door, or walk right into it.



Stefan Sereda

The door handle so confusing it prompted Conway to put a "Pull" sticker on it during his campaign



Stefan Sereda

Am I supposed to pull this door from either side? What the f-?



Why is "push" written so small? I'm going to barf and swallow.

## Letters to The Cord

Continued from page 7

the ways that the richest and most powerful nations force their economic logic on everyone else.

In addition, I'm outright shocked that Mr. Williams is so quick to dismiss the millions of underpaid and mistreated workers in developing nations with his privileged hand, but at the same time call it inhuman! Make up your mind, Mr. Williams! If something is inhuman, why would you allow it to happen, let alone support it? If your mother or sister were being abused and exploited in the same way that workers in developing nations are, would you still facilitate their exploitation by buying their products? For the sake of your family and those close to you, I certainly hope not!

Finally, perhaps Mr. Williams should take a closer look at what type of attitude he is advocating: "So why fight it?" Is it so incomprehensible to think that some global citizens actually think that things can be improved? Perhaps I need to speak to Mr. Williams in his own language: if no one ever criti-

cized the dominant socio-economic paradigm, then would this structure ever need to improve? Like competition fuels innovation, so does criticism. Blindly following the rest, or lamenting its inevitability, is the type of rigid attitude that has led to the collapse of even the strongest structures.

Michael Borrelli

Yo-ga! Yo-ga! Yo-ga!

After reading Laren Thompson's excellent Student Life article ("Hey you, put down those weights") in the March 10 issue of *The Cord*, I'd like to commend her for recognizing the many benefits of Yoga. While the overall focus of her article is directed towards people seeking to lose weight, it was great that she mentioned other positive attributes of the non-competitive art.

I have had great success in the past few weeks in relieving both my chronic back pain and the stress that has plagued me for all my years as a University student. Having an environ-

ment that encourages personal growth has allowed me to advance far beyond the mental and physical prison that I sometimes feel holding me back from doing some things I enjoy.

Contrary to myths propagated in popular culture, we do not spend all our time in class chanting mantras or with our bodies contorted into bizarre looking positions. Balance, relaxation and self-awareness are stressed as the course develops.

Recalling Krishna's advice to Arjuna many years ago, "Whatsoever a great man does, that others will also do. Whatsoever he sets up as the standard, that the world follows". This passage can easily be applied to many people who practice Yoga from undefeated Ju-Jitsu and Ultimate Fighting legend Rickson Gracie to musical genius Sting.

I encourage students and faculty alike at Laurier to discover the ancient practice that many before us have gained strength, energy and wisdom from.

Brian D'Souza

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# RePIRGitated queries Things aren't so bad



**Idealist at work**

David Alexander

What the heck is a PIRG? I wondered this from the time I arrived at Laurier until my eventual first step into the world of PIRG: free tea on Buy Nothing Day. I have to admit that I was intimidated at first and I didn't really understand what I was involving myself with. I eventually figured out the acronym, and I have come to realize the significance of PIRG at Laurier.

The first confusing question I should answer for you is what does PIRG stand for? The acronym PIRG stands for Public Interest Research Group. These organizations are set up at universities throughout the United States and Canada. Unsurprisingly, PIRGs do research. In the public interest. They are usually funded by the students of the university.

At the University of Waterloo, students pay \$4.75/term which they can have refunded should they choose not to support the PIRG. This money is used to hire full-time researchers to research social justice and environmental issues as well as purchase computers, books, videos and other resources. Research is also done by student volunteers

who can use their PIRG experience as an extension of their academic pursuits. The direction of the research done by WPIRG (that is the PIRG at UW) is chosen by an elected student board of directors.

One might also suggest that PIRG stands for human rights, fair trade, environmental responsibility, peace and many other principles. While PIRGs are non-partisan, they tend to align with traditionally "left-wing" issues. Still, it is worth noting that the issues they address are those which affect people in very real ways. They do not undertake projects on the economic merits of capitalism versus communism, rather they look at specific issues and attempt to educate the public and advocate for fair and sustainable solutions to social problems like poverty, AIDS or pollution.

**LS4PIRG's most vital function is its capacity as a forum for various activist groups on campus.**

Whereas many "right-wing" think-tanks exist thanks to corporate sponsorship, PIRGs are democratically responsible to their shareholders. Thus, PIRG research looks at issues from a social benefit standpoint, whereas

right-wing think tanks are often considered only in terms of profitability.

The next confusing question is why do we have a group called LS4PIRG rather than just PIRG? This is because Laurier Students for a Public Interest Research Group is not a funded PIRG. This group is a campus club involved in trying to start a PIRG at Laurier.

But that's not all! LS4PIRG's most vital function is its capacity as a forum for various activist groups on campus. For example, at Laurier groups like SAS, Amnesty, and the Enviro Club use PIRG to recruit, to inform, and to organize their events. LSPIRG keeps like-minded groups on campus aware of what others are doing. It makes a lot of sense to have a group on campus that can oversee events like Buy Nothing Day. The result of all this is that LS4PIRG is essential in the education of Laurier students.

If this article leaves you with questions or an unfulfilled desire to make the world a better place then befriending a PIRGie, come to a meeting (Fridays at 2:30, WLUSU Board Room), or email ls4pirg@yahoo.ca and ask some questions.

I'll leave you with a quote from Sean Geobey, who wrote almost this exact same article for *The Cord* about a year ago: "Keep an open mind. Trying to improve our world is far better than trying to destroy what is in it."



**Editor-in-Chief**

Wilbur McLean

"Hi, this is Lauren..." began an e-mail I received three days ago.

It was from an ex-girlfriend who I hadn't spoken with in three-and-a-half years. She had dumped me two days before Christmas with a brief e-mail and refused to answer my exploratory phone calls.

"...I'm just wondering if I could possibly talk to you."

Three months after dumping me she revealed to her friends that she was gay. She soon began dating a friend of hers who was already out of the closet.

"...don't worry I have no ulterior motives other than to be able to talk to you."

She was kicked out of her strict Hindu household, dropped out of Queen's and moved in with her girlfriend, where they struggled to make ends meet.

"...as for what exactly compelled me to write to you is a bit beyond any explanation that I can come up with. I guess the truth of the mat-

ter is that I wanted to see how you were."

She lost contact with all of her friends and didn't speak to her family, leaving her with only her girlfriend, to whom she devoted herself.

"I have been having some trouble finding my path to success in life..."

She slipped into depression, gained fifty pounds and didn't work or attend school, instead sitting at home all day watching television.

"Just to get it out of the way, I'm sorry. For what exactly I can clarify later..."

She broke up with her girlfriend a couple of months ago and quickly realized she had nobody in her life whatsoever.

She was alone, poor, unemployed and uneducated.

"Anyways write back soon and let me know about things okay?"

Last week I was in a bad mood because my Playstation wasn't working properly and my jelly had somehow frozen in the fridge making it difficult to spread on crackers.

It's often difficult to appreciate what one has until realizing what another doesn't.

Without a frame of reference, all that mattered was having jelly for my crackers.

"Bye for now... Lauren."

Thank you Lauren.

## Two party 'shit'stem

Columnist Len Ball attacks past and present US elections, months before a bandwagon is formed



**Sweet Deals**

Len Ball

Conservativeness cannot value that which subjugates or creates dissension and deviation from standard modes of control. A possibility for diversity is a problem, presenting opportunity for variation in a relatively closed system that is convinced of its own authority.

Despite hopeful optimism, there are frequent displays of the individual's (as well as the faction's or group's) capacity for strong yet subtle ignorance, as they are manipulated into believing that what they have faith in is just and right simply because they have chosen to believe it.

The campaign for the American presidency is a good example. Both the Democrats and Republicans denounce Ralph Nader's running as an independent candidate for presidency because they have convinced themselves (and are attempting to convince others) that he and his decision to run do not matter. That, however, is beside the point. Ralph Nader will not win the election. But he will run in order to even

the table, if only slightly. A democracy with only two candidates is not a democracy at all (selecting one party or the other is not much of a choice). One might recall a "Simpsons Halloween Special" in which two aliens masqueraded as presidential candidates and once revealed to be aliens, they laughed, declaring that the general voting populace had to vote for one of them. This pokes fun at a serious problem in American politics and one of Nader's central premises for running. Is there really a choice between only two sides, let alone two sides that are remarkably similar in many respects?

**Is there really a choice between only two sides, let alone two sides that are remarkably similar in many respects?**

In refuting Nader's premise, two representatives featured recently on CNN (a relevant example of the projection of conservative authority and ideology) both argued that Nader's running would be inconsequential.

Representing the democ-

rats, one speaker belayed further that it was in fact Nader's fault that Bush became president in the previous election, arguing that the votes for Nader could (and should) have been used to fulfill Gore's campaign hopes. This statement was evidently getting down to the 'real issues' of electoral practice, namely that slander and propaganda play an important role in deceiving the public. This kind of clandestine reasoning is an assumption of unusual simplicity and is ideologically heretical, conjured through a distinct indication of intellectual vacancy.

Complicity is one of the fortifications of political systems and endeavours to reduce the capacity to individually evaluate. People are not objects, and likewise should not be treated as such. Current political systems and practices continue to treat their given 'audience', the people, as if they directly correspond to that system and are inherently bound to the same mechanisms and projected ideals. In submitting to the established authority of these systems, people take on the characteristics usually restricted to those of objects, and differentiation between them becomes difficult. The boundary between the two merges, creating human commodities or mechanical people. According to political activities and government actions, this appears to be something the system counts on in order to perpetuate itself and further extend its arm of control.

## Letters to The Cord

Continued from page 7

**Help me help you**

I'd like to clarify a few points regarding the regulation that was passed at Senate with regards to evaluations in the last week of class. People must understand the context in which this regulation was developed. The headline "more marks allocated at end" (*The Cord Weekly*, Mar. 10, 2004) is slightly misleading. Although "more" marks MAY (not SHALL) be allocated towards the last week of classes, students must understand that the previous regulation could have allowed professors to make 100 percent of their course due on the 11th week of classes.

Obviously, 100 percent of your course mark due in the 11th week rarely occurs. Similarly, it would be absurd to believe that professors will adopt the practice of making 50 percent of your mark due in the final week. This regulation gives students more freedom with regards to the submission of assignments. Senate does not need to micromanage every aspect of students' lives by forcing them to study for one week prior to exams by making their assignments due a week earlier. According to one student, "students work on a priority list," and I agree. However, that priority list does not need to be dictated by Senate and its regulations. Students should be given the choice of how they work and study.

If this regulation had not passed, what would have been the implications? That students are not responsible enough to wisely manage their time to complete assignments and study for exams? That we need our hands held? Students need to be trusted to make good decisions and this is a step in the right direction.

Jason Shim  
Student Senator

**Valedictorian disaster**

Today I voted for the valedictorian for my school. I would like to put forward to the University Graduating class that this process was faulty and the voting should be repeated. First, the nomination time for the representatives was limited to only a few days. I think that a week would have been more appropriate. That way, students that are not at the school for those days could have an equal and fair chance to nominate someone.

My main problem is with the election process itself. The election took place over two days this week, once in the Concourse and the second in the Hall of Fame. The first problem is that there wasn't any information on the two people running for valedictorian available at the voting booth. A larger problem is that there wasn't any information on any of the candidates available to anyone before the voting date. This should have been provided in *The Cord*, the week before the election. The second and most troubling point is the fact that the people running the election had no list to make sure that those who voted were graduating students, and also no way of knowing if people voted more than once. The system of voting for these prestigious positions should have more standards, and in my mind the entire process should be redone to ensure that everyone has a fair chance to both run in this election and win it.

Thank-you,

Matt Street  
Graduating Student  
Geography and Global Studies

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**letters@wlusp.com**



# Simpsons no longer funny

Columnist McCullough tells "The Simpsons" to eat his shorts



What were you thinking?

Sven McCullough

Five years ago you would find me agreeing with those who said that "The Simpsons" was the best show on television, because it definitely was. After the first season or so all the episodes were amazing, and this trend of consistency in quality continued until more recent years. Am I a "Simpsons" fan? I was, but "The Simpsons" is not the same show anymore. Anyone who says "The Simpsons" has never tanked is lying to themselves, or lacks the mental capacity to lie. It's become like a Stephen King book that immediately goes to number one because it was written by the author who has pumped out many good works over the years. But does that mean that everything he's written is brilliant? Of course not.

Such is the case with "The Simpsons." It's been in steady decline for at least five years, but people stick with it because they know it used to be capable of much more and they think it will once again rise from the wreckage it's become. I wouldn't get your hopes up.

Anyone who says "The Simpsons" has never tanked is lying to themselves, or lacks the mental capacity to lie.

The last excellent show was "Mayored to the Mob" (Dec 20 1998) when Homer was Quimby's bodyguard. And with all honesty there has not been a single episode since that has been anywhere close to the level the series used to be at. For five years it's been dumbed down, becoming less believable. When "The Simpsons" returned to air on Jan. 10, 1999 after the Christmas hiatus, the show had sunk to a new level and never returned to its previous greatness. "Viva Ned Flanders" was very bad, and Season 10 ended with progressively worse episodes. The show definitely jumped the shark in "Maximum Homerdrive" when Homer became a trucker, and Season 10 just got worse from there on in: the Loch Ness Monster, trivializing Stephen Hawking's handicap and the vacation to Japan. Terrible.

Enter Season Eleven. Completely and utterly humourless with one bad show after another. Mel Gibson. Focusin'. Tomacco, the trip to Florida. Are they trying to ruin the show? The episode about Africa was probably my all-time most hated episode of any show, and I've seen "Full House."

"The Simpsons" started out pretty bad (a.g.

Babysitter Bandit, shudder) then became the best show I have ever seen. Countless amazing episodes like the Lemon Tree, Beer Baron and Foster Home. This was the golden age of the series. They should have quit while at the leading edge of television comedy, instead of letting the once-mighty giant gradually die. This death was caused by dumbing-down both the jokes and Homer to an unbelievable level, and resorting to celebrity guests and atrocious plots.

As Neil Young said, "It's better to burn out, than to fade away." "The Simpsons" is now trying to get blood from a stone. It's over. It's five years past its prime and every season it drags on in its mediocrity like a dagger to the heart of this longtime "Simpsons" follower. I used to have countless conversations with friends that all contained the phrase "Remember the 'Simpsons' when..." as the show once had a profound impact on my life and sense of humour. I don't find myself making those comments anymore.

The Africa episode was probably my all-time most hated episode of any show, and I've seen Full House.

In the "138 Episode Spectacular," character Troy McClure said that the show will continue until it becomes unprofitable, so I blame the viewers who give FOX an excuse to continue the series despite the direction it has taken. Only when everyone hates the new episodes and refuses to watch will they finally stop this madness.



Richard Nixon, participating in Whacking Day, an excuse to beat up the Irish on "The Simpsons"

# Joys of discovery

Continuing his pieces on the nature of education, Psychology professor Don Morgenson insists that it never ends



Opinion Editorial

Dr. Don Morgenson

Learning has been the center of my professional life for 45 years, and by no stretch of the imagination does that mean I am learned. No... in the end, a learner is very likely to confess to knowing very little or less and less as they grow in wisdom.

The true learner is more concerned with seeing and loving the reality before him/her than in processing a large store of knowledge and as such, this is a phenomenon that may occur rather rarely. Furthermore, compared to performance, learning may be among the least recognized activities in our classrooms. And by the general public, it appears to be less valued among those many acquired excellences. Yet learning is the one activity of which the individual is capable that never flickers with age, nor fails with illness, nor fades during persecution or disgrace.

To learn is to take an aspect of the world into one's mind, contemplate it with immense curiosity, manipulate it with delight, and in reflection, discover new paths leading to compelling terrains. And the act of learning is potentially available to every person and is a characteristic of our human species.

But many of us never learn to learn: we acquire information, data bases, an intimate knowledge of a system and its many processes which we can recall at will; we can even recombine such to fit new situations and solve new problems. Yet paradoxically, we may have been denied the joy of learning and may have never felt its utterly transforming power.

And we must remember that among people with little formal education or training, they still have a wisdom that comes from a rather faithful attention to the cycles of nature, the rhythms of life, attention to the multifaceted nature of objects, the plasticity of our Earth and the pathos of creatures. This tacit knowledge has come from attending to the necessities of living and dying; in

sum, through their wisdom they present a personal image of hardiness, humility and harmony.

In our time, however, in the midst of societal reorganization, the majority of us living in urban centers, electronic communication taking the place of the transportation of goods, with manufacturing given over to fewer developers and inventors, and production increasingly left to robots, there are fewer of us who maintain the order of our existence without bureaucratic interference. Few of us maintain constant contact with archetypal forms, a firm religious faith or an inviolate familial structure.

Learning implies nothing less than the apprehension of the cosmos...

Those who are now in charge of the systems, some of which control our lives, are often people who have had neither the formation of character nor the transforming experience of learning. They have acquired the ability to reason to a logical conclusion and from the available facts go on to make certain assumptions, but it is a grievous error to consider such progressions of thought as learning (See Robert Coles' "The Moral Intelligence of Children").

...it is seeing the darkness informed by the light, evil informed by the good.

Learning implies a move to a higher stage of understanding, a move to a new relation with our world. It involves distancing oneself from unreflective egoism and moving toward a union with that through which learning occurs.

Learning implies nothing less than the apprehension of the cosmos, even if that apprehension must forever be partial and transitory. It is not that one learns something but that one is changed by the joy of learning, by the

ecstasy of discovery. The joy of learning is seeing form in amorphous matter and incorporating it into one's soul. It is seeing the corporeal informed by the spiritual; the darkness informed by the light, evil informed by good.

In the liberal arts particularly, we sense the marvelous transforming power of poetry, art, music, etc., and encourage those who follow in their aesthetic paths. There is a transcendent quality to the study of Vincent van Gogh's canvases, Jane Austen's novels, and the piano pieces of Aleksandr Scriabin.

Those who read literally or listen simply for formal harmonic structures in a melody, or respond only to the aesthetics of color, and those who intend to follow without discerning the inner meaning had better turn back because poetry, art and music taken in such a manner can mislead. But those few who have learned how to take art as leading to an inner meaning,

to take music as refreshing to the soul, to allow poetry to tug them beyond familiar terrains can entrust themselves to the turbulent waters of wisdom without fear.

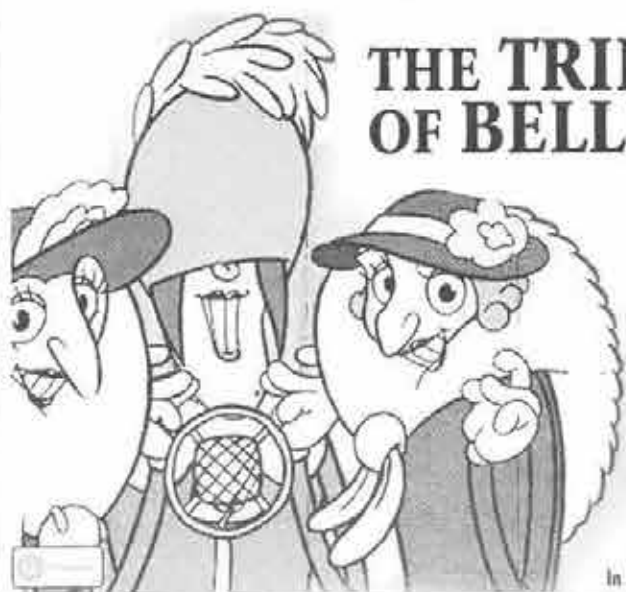
In the liberal arts, learners walk hand in hand and follow those "paths with heart" (Carlos Castaneda), occasionally berating stupidity and always scolding cowardice but also praising any tentative motions to embrace truth. Learners can make the same spiritual journeys as Dante, Rene Magritte and Virginia Woolf and gaze upon those same splendid ramparts that inspired them.

The literature student, if he/she is diligent and perseveres (...and has a good teacher) can apprehend the human dilemma with the same understanding as Fyodor Dostoevsky. In philosophy, the learner can acquire the guidance of peripatetic Socrates and share his insights. In music, the serious student can come to a new understanding when sharing the fine interpretations of a piano literature performed by Dame Myra Hess or Glenn Gould.

Teachers, at all levels, can make significant contributions to solving some of the ills ravaging our educational institutions, for learning is the very reason for their existence. But teachers themselves need to be transformed and have experienced for themselves the ecstasies of the intellectual life. And the whole process of discovering it... is joy.

## "A MAD MASTERPIECE."

- Rene Rodriguez, MIAMI HERALD



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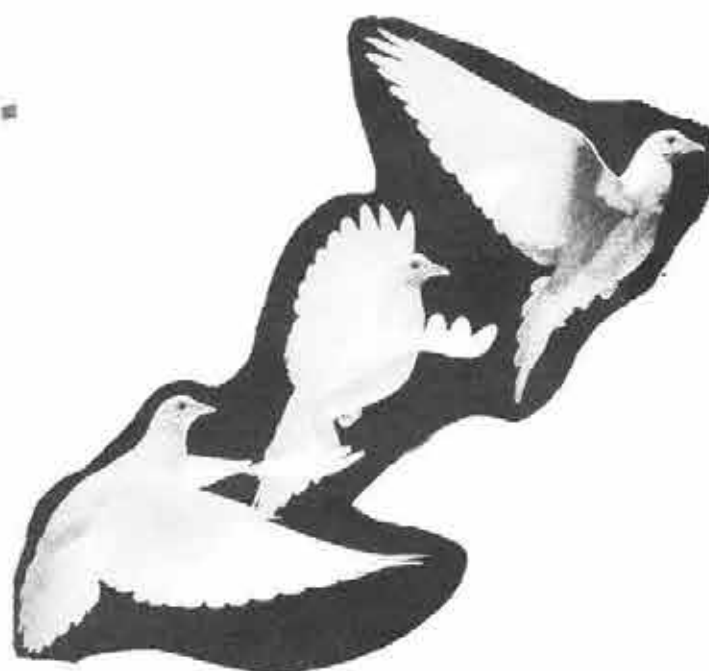
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WAR

PEACE

VS.



# War is often a necessary evil



## Colonize This

Brian D'Souza

The European Colonial powers that exploited Africa used violent means to secure their empires. In the words of Joseph Conrad (author of *Heart of Darkness*), "They were conquerors, and for that you want only brute force—nothing to boast of, when you have it, since your

strength is just an accident arising from the weakness of others. They grabbed what they could get for the sake of what was to be got. It was just robbery with violence, aggravated murder on a great scale, and men going at it blind."

After World War II, Africans began to question their servitude to the white man. They had to break free from the system, even though the odds were stacked against them.

The solution was to ferment violent uprisings, riots and guerilla wars in order to oust the colonizers. I should

make it perfectly clear that the struggle to end colonization is just one link in the myriad of chains that hold African development back.

In Portuguese colonies such as Angola and Mozambique, wars waged between the oppressor and oppressed dragged on until the mid-1970s. Despite having superior weapons, training and tactics, the colonizers were as doomed in Africa as the United States was in Vietnam.

These struggles were necessary components in the evolution of the African continent, just as it was neces-

sary for the Americans to struggle (and eventually defeat) the British for the sake of their development.

Frantz Fanon famously reminds us, "Violence alone, violence committed by the people, violence organized and educated by its leaders, makes it possible for the masses to understand social truths and gives the key to them." His words don't apply to every struggle in the world, and should never be misused to justify acts of terrorism or further acts of colonization.

The idea of freedom must be defended with constant

vigilance, however, the economic and social structures of a fully-developed nation require thinkers who aren't so focused on death and destruction. For the same reasons that Trotsky was unsuited to run the USSR, men like Mugabe in Zimbabwe or Idi Amin in Uganda are monstrous artifacts of the past with archaic and counterproductive mind-sets.

Remember the Mau Mau guerillas in Kenya, and all the warriors like them who paid in blood for the freedom that Africa (sometimes) enjoys today.

# Peace possible without war



## Passionate Peacenik

Dave Alexander

Upon telling people that I am a pacifist, my ideas are often dismissed as idealistic. I am not ashamed of being labelled as an idealist; I am far more worried by people who proclaim that violence will always exist than I am by people who suggest that peace is possible.

Like feminism, pacifism is sometimes dismissed because of misconceptions about the goals of its advocates. Open-minded consideration of pacifist philosophies, arguments, and critiques is important if we want to develop fairer, less violent communities, cultures, and societies.

Pacifism is not just the refusal of violence; it is a personal philosophy. In a Buddhist parable, the Buddha compares the giving of hatred to the giving of a gift. This parable suggests that feelings of hatred exist within the hater: the subject of their hatred can choose whether or not to accept that hatred. According to the Buddha, "hatred is never overcome by hatred, hatred is overcome by love."

While this idea is strangely similar to the premise of Care Bears, it is a valid concept. Think of a really bad day when you were angry. Now, your arch-nemesis comes up to you and dumps coffee all over you. This does-

n't feel very good, does it? Now think of the same really bad day, but pretend that your best friend sneaks up on you and gives you a hug. I'll bet that feels a lot better. Believe it or not, our own feelings of love and hatred shoot out at each person we interact with like our own unique Care Bear Stare.

Pacifism is also an intellectual idea. In reaction to a culture of war and fear, pacifists suggest that peaceful conditions are possible. Jawaharlal Nehru, a contemporary of Gandhi, suggested that "Peace is not merely the absence of war. It is also a state of mind. Lasting peace can come only to peaceful people". In response to hatred, pacifists offer compassion rather than condemnation. Pacifism depends on forming empathetic relationships with other individuals.

A common misconception about pacifism is that it is a passive -ism; it is not. Pacifism is an activist philosophy. Mahatma Gandhi's Satyagraha ("truth-force" or "soul-force") is probably the most famous example of non-violent resistance. Gandhi was frequently jailed for the protests that he led to end Britain's imperialist rule over India. He led a noncooperation campaign that saw Indians resign from public office, boycott the British courts, take their children out of British schools and block the streets in peaceful protest. India's eventual independence from England was largely thanks to the ingenious pacifist strategies advocated by Gandhi.

Martin Luther King Jr. is another well-known advocate of non-violent action. King was a champion for human

rights, he sought to end three interconnected evils: racism, poverty, and war. He realized the connection between these three social problems and sought not only to end racism but also to eliminate the causes and effects of racism, poverty, and violence. While Dr. King's struggle for black rights is an outstanding example of the power of non-violent action, the struggle to end these other destructive forces continues.

The most important feature of pacifist activism is its preventative quality. Martin Amis suggests that the key to preventing war is removing the impetus for war: "Bullets cannot be recalled. They cannot be uninvented. But they can be taken out of the gun." During war times, pacifists are often asked why they do not fight; how often are people asked why they do not take action to prevent armed conflict?

In many cases, war is caused by economic inequalities. Just as violence within communities is correlated with poverty, the same is true in larger geopolitical regions. Ensuring fair and equitable international economic conditions is one important step that could be taken to reduce the risk of war. The United Nations is also invaluable as a forum for non-violent (or at least less violent) conflict resolution.

When it comes down to actual violence (war) there are debates about fighting a "just war" but participation in any war would undermine the philosophy of personal pacifism; it would make false the possibility that peace can be achieved.

Any debate about pacifism



Contribute Photo

If everyone were like this plucky fellow, the world might be a better place. Although there could be a few bar fights...

will inevitably come to involve Adolf Hitler or incredibly unlikely hypothetical situations. How do you deal with Hitler? The easiest way to deal with situations like WWII is to understand how Nazi Germany developed and how it could have been prevented. We must work for positive social change so that the conditions that caused WWII will never occur again.

We saw how a culture of war dealt with Hitler and, frankly, the results were not very good. You could say that Hitler lost but you could also say that we all lost. Pacifism is the belief that Albert Camus expressed when he stated that "There are causes worth dying for, but none worth killing for".



# No bombs over Baghdad

**MATT STREET**  
Cord Features

Recently for my Global Studies Seminar we read a book by Sven Lindqvist called *A History of Bombing*. When I think of bombing, I think of a nuclear mushroom cloud rising from a test site.

For others it might be large planes flying overhead and dropping thousands of bombs onto cities below.

Some remember the scene that we saw one year ago of the shock and awe destruction of Baghdad as smart bombs were dropped with little precision or care of civilians.

Finally, I think of recent events in Madrid where bombs tore through commuting morning traffic killing over 200 people.

There is one connection that these images have: the use of bombs on civilians to achieve peace.

This reminds me of a saying that I have seen on many signs: Bombing for peace is like lying for the truth. In Iraq, Bush used the fear of weapons of mass destruction to justify the devastation. The bombing destroyed power grids and generation plants, leaving the country without power even for emergencies.

During wartime, it is imperative that power is supplied to hospitals to help reduce the number of civilians lost in the bombing attacks. Iraqbodycount.net states that since the first wave of attacks, civilian casualties number between 8437 and 10282 people. To put that into perspective, that is about the size of Laurier's student population.

As bombing as a use of terrorism has increased, so has the use of bombs in wars waged against terrorism.

One act simply incites a retaliation. Perhaps this will change when we stop blaming others for the problems that we in North America and Europe have created.

A better solution is to forget about blaming and retaliating for previous attacks and start to remember those lost in tragic acts of violence with great acts of peace and forgiveness.

Instead of investing billions of dollars into military to defend and attack, we could invest billions into true peacekeeping, mediation, infrastructure building,

health and education.

This extra support will go further than blowing up people in cities, trains, cafes and mountains towards encouraging true democracy, reducing human rights abuses and opening new sources for trade.

Maybe it is time that we stop playing war and start playing peace. This might start us on the path of changing the way in which we react to violence.

Millions of people have died from bombing in the name of peace. This is not right; there are other options. In general before you react with violence just think of what could be done if you acted without violence.

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Two women hold candles outside the Spanish embassy in Poland to mourn the death of 200 Spanish civilians killed in Madrid during bomb blasts. Fourteen hundred others were wounded in the attacks.

Contributed Photo

# Peace must prevail

Terror blast rocks Madrid prompting Spanish ousting of President Anzar

*continued from cover*

Even here in the sleepy tourist resort-city of Alicante, terrorism has been a threat. Last year the Basque terrorist group Euskadi Ta Azkatasuna (ETA) bombed a hotel here as part of its campaign against the burgeoning tourism industry.

Do I look like a tourist? Could I be a target? Will it be safe when the tourism season begins?

Before 11-M, as they're calling it in Spain, I probably would never have asked myself these questions. When people asked me before I left, 'aren't there problems with the Basques in Spain?' I shrugged it off, saying 'ah, it's Western Europe, what's the worst that could happen?' Now, despite my geographical location, I feel a sense of vulnerability that is alien to most Canadians.

After writing countless articles on the subject, hearing the buzzwords in my global studies classes and being bombarded by the never-ending rhetoric of President Bush, I always knew what terrorism looked like but now I know what it feels like.

But if I can learn something from the way Spain has reacted to 11-M, it is that the best defence against fear is to reaffirm the antithesis of what the terrorists stand for.

Last Friday, an estimated 11 million Spaniards packed the streets to show solidarity 'with the victims, with the constitution and against the terrorism.' The biggest

demonstration in the history of a nation of demonstrators, showing terrorists and the world that they would not be cowed into fear or complacency at the hands of murderers.

Democracy and civil liberties, barely a quarter-century old in Spain, will not be compromised. The painted-white hands of the Madrid demonstrators will not be stained with blood in the fight against terrorism.

As I marched with hundreds of thousands of Spaniards through the streets of Alicante, applauding as the Spanish do to honour the dead, I felt the thunderous heartbeat of a nation that was utterly solemn but equally determined to purge the cancer of terrorism that has afflicted their nation for nearly 30 years.

Whether it was ETA or al-Qaeda, Spain will remain unshaken in their democratic beliefs and if I've learned one thing about Spaniards in the past month, while they may appear dour and aloof, inside they are fiercely passionate and intensely stubborn.

On Sunday, they were stubborn enough to throw the ruling, centre-right Partido Popular (PP) from office for exaggerating the culpability of ETA while downplaying the politically damaging links to Islamic groups that may have been responsible. Flooding to the polls in record numbers (77 percent voter turnout, a 15 percent increase from the last election), irate Spaniards delivered one of the biggest electoral surprises in the modern era of democracy.

In the biggest political firestorm to engulf Spain since the death of long-time dictator Francisco Franco nearly 30 years ago, it will be largely seen that the Madrid bombings changed the outcome of the election, which was supposed to see the PP coast to a third consecutive mandate.

Although the PP sent troops to Iraq, against almost 90 percent of the popular opinion, their eight years of economic prosperity and tough stances toward terror and the ETA had played well with the Spanish electorate. That was until 11-M. Now, Socialist party leader Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero is el Presidente, and on Monday he announced that Spanish troops are coming home.

Never before has terrorism had such a profound effect on an election outcome. However, in Spain, where people expect little from their elected officials, the PP made the crucial mistake of trying to shift blame for electoral gain during the country's worst terrorist attack in history. Had the PP been more transparent, they would have been spared the wrath of Spanish voters.

Nonetheless, this sets some very dangerous precedents.

In an American election year, terrorists will likely look to rouse anti-Iraq opinion through attacks meant to 'punish' the Americans for their Middle Eastern presence. It worked well enough to oust the hawkish conservatives in Spain, and it could do the same in the US.

Both administrations rightly deserve to lose office but not at the bloody hands of terrorists. The white hands of peace and democracy must and will prevail.

# Putin wins a second term

Russian electorate gives the nod to Vladimir Putin in light of his aggressive economic policies and progress

**BRYN BOYCE**  
International Editor

Now in their thirteenth year following the collapse of the Soviet Union, Russia has re-elected Vladimir Putin and his United Russia Party to a second term. Putin pulled this victory off amid a crumbling social infrastructure and an economy with a hangover, the likes of which would frighten even the boldest undergrad, and for that he deserves credit.

There are few who can question the results of the election given the widely popular Putin has had few political blunders in his first term. Indeed the polls indicate that he took a massive 71% of the vote and none of his political opponents mounted much of a fight. Some in the international community have criticized the Russian leader for doing little to promote pluralistic dialogue in the campaign process.

Putin ran with a strong platform but he did not participate in a single debate, televised or not, with his six opposition candidates and his commercials dominated the state TV channels.

Many including 49-year-old Elena Gitlina have become fed up with Putin's leadership and the lack of political pluralism in Russia. "I've done so to show that there is an alternative to Putin, that there is a voice of discontent in this chorus singing praise to our president who is so much obsessed with keeping his power," Gitlina said after casting her ballot for Putin's only liberal democratic competitor, Irina Khakamada.

The head of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, Julian Peel Yates, stated that, "The election process overall did not adequately reflect the principles necessary for a healthy democratic election process."

Sergei Bakunin, a Russian citizen from an outlying farming village cast his vote for the Communist party stating that Putin's power

hungry rule keeps the country scared and poor. "We had a funeral recently and the guards would not let us into a cemetery because it is close to the presidential land. We had to pay Rbs100 [\$3.50] to get through. At least under Stalin we did not have to pay to go to the cemetery," said Bakunin.

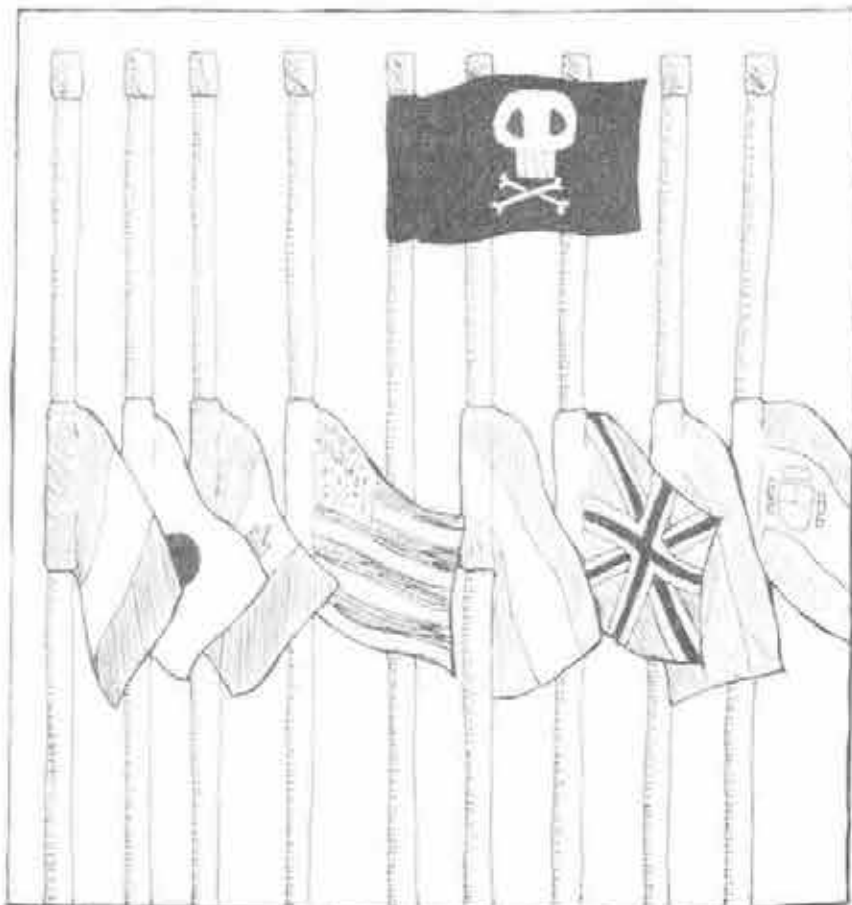
Despite the support of people like Bakunin and Gitlina, no single party could crack 15% in the polls, although the Communist Party finished surprisingly strong with 14.7% of the vote and second place overall in the election.

Now with Putin firmly at the reins for another term, a whole new palette of laws are set to be introduced into parliament (Duma). Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Zhukov announced that within two months, 30 new laws dealing with everything from tax reform to medical insurance for the unemployed will find their way into the Duma. Putin and his administration have pledged to revamp the economy with their tax reform policies and new focus on the timber trade.

The current forestry laws will likely be amended in the new law changes taking place to accommodate Russia's new shift into the timber trade, an Russian sector with the world's greatest potential.

Even Chechen rebels supported Putin in this year's election. Despite the Nord-Ost Theatre siege in late 2002 where Putin accidentally ordered a fatal gassing of 115 Russian civilian and rebels, Chechnya's Caucasus region polls reported a shocking 93.9% in favour of the incumbent Putin.

The big ideas for modernization that first made Putin popular seem to have boiled over enough to snag Putin another win. It will be important to see if the grandfathered economic hangover or the always inflammatory Chechnya situation to plague Putin in his second term at the helm.



11-M, 2004

Sarah Graves



# Stability and order first in the Congo



**The Old Continent**

Ruben Gu-Konu

The war in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has been one of the most devastating Africa has had in the last ten years. Following an arrogant and disparaging rule by former dictator, Mobutu Sese Seko, the country has had dreadful episodes of violence and instability, including a general civil war, three reported genocides, continuing tribal and ethnic conflicts and three leadership changes since 1997. Despite the international community and the African leader's calls for a restoration of peace and order, the DRC remains in a very precarious situation and it's unlikely that new loans will ease the situation.

On March 4, a Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) spokesperson in the capital city of Kinshasa, reported that over 30,000 people have fled their homes after armed militia groups carried out a series of massacres around the province of Katanga in late February. According to MSF, over 100 people, mostly civilians, were killed with machetes and other weapons. Some of the victims, including women and children, were mutilated and left to die.

These organized militia groups hide in the bushes and rush out to perpetrate these horrendous acts of violence on the residents of surrounding villages. These acts have a terrifying effect on the civilians and have prompted a mass exodus. These actions and massacres prevent aid workers from attending to the victims because they fear



for their own lives.

The attacks are blamed on a militia group led by a General "Chinja Chinja" also referred to as the "Ripper". Army officials say that Chinja Chinja is one of the only remaining militia leaders in the Katanga region refusing to integrate the newly formed army. These events clearly show that peace and order has not yet been restored in the country and factions of rebel groups and the former army are still battling to control strategic areas in the Northern provinces.

But despite this lack of stability, the IMF has approved a \$39 million loan to Congo as part of its Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility program (PRGF). According to the BBC, this loan is meant to promote and encourage the 'positive' steps taken by the current government toward poverty reduction.

Looking at the recent events, however, one must ask if this money is actually going to help poverty when people are fleeing their homes by the thousands. When unarmed populations are not able to defend themselves against organized armies, is a \$39 million loan really a priority? As talks continue about cancelling the debt owed by certain poor nations especially in Africa, I ask myself if throwing more money out the window for future generations to pay is the way to proceed.

The IMF claims that the latest loan is to reduce pover-

ty, but how can poverty be the main focus when people cannot even sleep with a sense of security? How can a loan be approved and implemented properly in a country that has seen more change in government in its last five years than in its previous 40?

According to Takatoshi Kato, Deputy Managing Director and Acting Chair of the IMF, the current peace agreement seeks to begin "the demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants [and] the creation of an integrated police" program within the upcoming months. Looking at the last three years of the war, such processes have not been successful. With all these suspicions and uncertainties, this latest IMF loan could only mean more debt for a nation still trying to pull itself together.

Securing a lasting peace, disarming combatants in the bushes and addressing the issue of refugees and internally displaced peoples will be a good start. Above all, these steps must be taken first to ensure that the building blocks and loans set up to fight poverty aren't squandered or misused. As the DRC has one of the richest soils in the world, it also has one of the poorest populations on the planet. Already living in extreme paucity, the populations would rather be safe and secure than participate in programs to fight the poverty that seems to have existed all along.

## Windows to the World



Contributed Photo

### PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI

In the face of ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide's recent arrival in Jamaica, the new Haitian Interim Prime Minister Gerard Latortue began moving toward building consensus in the fractured Haitian government. Canadian troops have landed in Haiti and begun policing the streets along with military units from France, Chile and the United States. The scene has been fairly quiet with few clashes but much of the country still looks to Aristide's return. "One day, Aristide is going to return here. He hasn't done anything wrong," said protester Edeg Rosier, a 31-year-old electrician. "Aristide represents something special for us. He represents the poor and the forgotten."



Contributed Photo

### CARACAS, VENEZUELA

Protests for and against leftist Venezuelan President, Hugo Chavez, have raged in the streets of Caracas and other major urban areas. A Supreme Court ruling in early March stated that about 800,000 signatures were fabrications and could not be counted toward the 2.4 million needed to petition the country back to the polls has been overturned. Chavez's enemies have called him autocratic and power hungry citing his recent defiance in front of Americans. Chavez has also offered exiled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide refuge and announced that Venezuela will not recognize the new Haitian government.



Contributed Photo

### COLOMBO, SRI LANKA

Renegade members of the the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) have begun fortifying positions on the banks of the Verugal river in preparation for a possible clash with the northern Tamil Tigers. The three decades of fighting in Sri Lanka has left the country in shambles and this new confrontation shows a distinct change in the Tamil rebels. Much of the failed peace attempts recently have been due to political instability in the region between the Prime Minister and President who are acting as interim government. Norway has expressed fears that this new fissure in the Tamil leadership will take a serious toll on the fragile peace process.

Compiled by Bryn Boyce

# Note to self: Always ignore the liar



**Coast to Cote**

Kris Cote

As the one-year anniversary of the invasion of Iraq looms, Canadians gloat in knowing that we did not join the 'Coalition of the Willing.' As recent poles indicate, the majority of Canadians believe that President Bush lied in order to justify the War on Iraq. Yet, they do not stop to question the justification for our coalition with America and France to 'liberate' Haiti.

Contrary to corporate media reports, the story is beginning to emerge that the democratically elected President of Haiti, Jean Baptiste Aristide, did in fact not resign but was forced out of his country by French and American interests. Canadians are joining the occupation and reconstruction of Haiti based on the same sources that tried to convince us to join in the invasion of Iraq. We are accepting the justification for Haitian occupation from a known liar.

When the issue was debat-

ed in the House of Commons on March 11, NDP MP Svend Robinson demanded that the government support an independent inquiry into the situation. The Liberals refused. Foreign Affairs minister Bill Graham argued that instead of examining whether Canada is a part of an illegal coup d'etat, we should just "look forward."

This is obviously a dangerous outlook for any government to take, since a disregard for international law ranks among the gravest of crimes internationally. The destruction of Iraq was justified on false pretences, but that's in the past and we must now look forward and allow our businesses to profit from Iraq's destruction. Would Canada's answer to Bush one year ago have been different if the government was following this policy? Does it even matter what Canadians think on a specific issue?

But Aristide was a dictator who had won the 'seriously flawed' elections of 2000 and neglected the needs of his people. This, at least, is what corporate media have reported. They fail to note that monitoring bodies have confirmed that Aristide had fulfilled the eight conditions demanded by the US after the

2000 elections.

Canada's neutral peace-keeper image is being tainted in the world as the truth emerges surrounding Aristide's departure. Canada will no longer be seen as an exponent of democracy but instead as a willing participant in its destruction (at least when it serves our interests). A year ago at the Summit of the Francophonie in Ottawa, it was reported that plots of regime change in Haiti were discussed between Canadian, American and French foreign ministers. Suddenly, Canada's implicit role as a supporter of democracy becomes seriously questioned. Soon, the only image we will have left is that of America's 'lil' buddy'.

Too many questions still surround the situation in Haiti and the media is slowly winding down the debate. Instead of discussion, the media has delivered one-sided accounts of the situation in Haiti. The only justifications for an occupation of Haiti by Canadian soldiers rests on the statements made by Bush and company. One year ago Bush lied to Canada in an effort to gain our support for Iraq, one year later we still haven't learned not to trust him.



# Umbrellales in a nu

Cord International takes a look at the implications of  
Ballistic Missile Shields and Weapons of Mass Destruction

## Who can you trust?



Cross your  
Fingers

Richard  
Togman

"Weapons of mass destruction is the dumbest term I have ever heard. Firstly, as if killing people quickly in one attack is worse than killing people slowly in many attacks. Secondly, it groups together three extremely different types of weapons that have no link to one another. Biological weapons are manufactured diseases, which make poor weapons as they are relatively difficult to make and deliver and are relatively not as effective at killing as conventional means due to the increased difficulties in their dissemination. The same applies for chemical weapons.

Many nations have chemical and biological weapons and a chemical or biological attack would have extremely limited effects. The only thing that these two weapons share with nuclear weapons is their use as terror scare tactics as the general public would panic at the mention of their name. They have been used before, such as during First World War, Iran-Iraq war and the anthrax attacks in the United States. Each time they have pro-

duced very limited results.

The real danger is in nuclear weapons. The only time they have been used, they brought one of the most powerful nations in the world to its knees. Consequently, nuclear proliferation has been one of the most important issues of the century. Nuclear weapons have essentially safeguarded a nation against a major attack by a foreign power. MAD (mutually assured destruction) has brought the world an unparalleled level of peace for the past 50 years as no major power would dare combat another. This is not to say that there have been no wars; however, their scales and numbers have never come close to that of the First or Second World Wars.

The question remains whether nuclear non-proliferation is simply an attempt by powerful nations to maintain their superiority or if it is a laudable goal (one worth going to war over?). The current nuclear powers (USA, Britain, France, Russia, China, Israel, India, Pakistan and possibly North Korea) all sought nuclear weapons to ensure their security so how can we reasonably deny the same right to, for example, Iran.

Are nuclear weapons a legitimate means of self-defense or are they simply a threat to peace and the existing world order? Do some nations have a legitimate claim to nuclear weapons while others do

not?

Ultimately, why we tolerate some nuclear states while refusing nuclear technology and weapons to others comes down to a matter of trust. Do we trust that that state will not use the weapons it has? Do we trust that state not to strike first, give nuclear weapons to those who would or use nuclear weapons to blackmail the world for other ends.

For example, we trust that France will not launch a first strike nuclear attack; however, we do not trust that Iran will not give its nuclear technology to terrorist groups who would gladly produce and use these weapons. As well, we could not trust Iraq not to use nuclear weapons as blackmail in order to secure that the international community would not intervene in its conquest of the Middle East (ex. Kuwait).

In some cases we can only hope to trust that nations such as Pakistan and India will not use these weapons against each other, when we would obviously prefer that they be without them all together given their propensity to declare war on each other. We must constantly weigh the costs of allowing these weapons versus the cost of disarming the nation that wishes to possess them. The price of peace is eternal vigilance.

## The 'Brand New' Arms Race



International  
Editor

Bryn  
Boyce

The Cold War never ended. If anything it has only just begun with new created enemies, new sides and new rules. All the fear, uncertainty and opposition that made the original Cold War era so turbulent remains today and is growing. It's becoming so natural to us that we don't really even take anything as new anymore.

Anyone who croons over international relations (as I confess to doing) can't help but feel compelled to dive into the debate about how nuclear weapons are changing our world. Well here it goes. Nothing, not one solitary thing, has changed in terms of the likelihood of nuclear death (see mushroom cloud in background).

You're just as likely to get nuked today as you were any other day. Think about that one while brushing your teeth in the morning. Suddenly questions

like, 'did Raisin Brain still me out of my rightful two scoops?' fades to the background. Either that or you'll be eyeing down every jet contrail in the sky with scientific precision. Sweet Baby Jesus, that's just a Boeing 737! For a second I thought it was one of those Shaheed-2 missiles that Pakistan just perfected.

It makes no difference if your parents thought it was communists then and you think it's the terrorists now.

**"Sweet Baby Jesus, that's just a Boeing 737! For a second I thought it was one of those Shaheed-2 missiles from Pakistan"**

This is what scared everyone from the start. It wasn't the idea of dying instantly (because that's a good as it could ever really get), it's the idea of not being in control of what happens.

The people of the world are the ones who have been least consulted throughout the whole nuclear era. Nothing has changed in this respect either.

Our parents lived through this

powerlessness and fear. You remember those nuclear war paddies... the old 'duck-and-cover' crap or 'head-to-the-bunker-Dad-bait-round-back' that dominated the 60s and 70s. Hiding under their desks or in metal-encased holes were their best attempts to control their environment.

It's really our individual government that's being eroded because, out of that primalval desire to survive, we've become

forced together into tight groups by a need for greater security. Nuclear weapons have placed a great deal of control over life and death matters in the hands of a very few people. Some elected, others selected.

The first ballistic missile shields are barreling through production in order to tuck Americans (and perhaps Canadians) snugly into bed, under a blanket of false security and control. The fact that the shield covers some, but not all, reinforces the concept of "us" and "them." We all love it though. I

mean what could be more politically popular than a shield? Everyone likes umbrellas right? I've been told to think of it like that.

The more delirious speak of protecting "their citizens", the more I want to see the world collapse out of its fragmented base. Not even the most optimistic Mr. Rogave-type person could say that missile defense "offers an opportunity" or "brings the world closer together." The New Arms Race, once in full swing, will kick-start a fossilized pattern of international relations that was better left buried in the 1980s.

The implications of these early 'defense' technologies will once again showcase the fundamental divisiveness that exists between countries. These systems have just begun starting a New Arms Race and considering that the first weapon of mass destruction was made to end war, it seems sickly ironic that so many countries will have to spend the next unknown number of years searching for an antidote to that forsaken Ambrosia.



# nuclear world

## Wrong time, wrong direction?



ACUNS  
Executive

Dr. Alistair  
Edgar

Two hundred innocent civilians killed and over a thousand wounded in bomb attacks against commuter trains in Madrid, Spain. Dozens murdered in renewed civil conflict in Haiti. The strange and still-unfolding tale of over 60 alleged South African mercenaries intercepted in Zimbabwe en route to attempt the overthrow of a government elsewhere. If we ever needed it, events such as these serve to remind us that the world still contains within it people and groups with agendas to do harm, whether out of material greed, political ambition or just ugly hatred. We may content ourselves with the belief that malicious intent eventually consumes the bearer. Or we may choose to adopt one or several measures of defense. What about ballistic missile defense (BMD)?

At least twice during the Cold War – something most students here did not experience – the question of anti-ballistic missile defense was raised as a significant policy issue by a government in the United States. The first time led to negotiation of the ABM Treaty in 1972 between Moscow and Washington, a landmark arms control agreement in the period of east-west détente. The second time, President Ronald Reagan's "Star Wars" proposal, though full of technological hyperbole and practical flaws, ushered in a period of record high defense spending in the US.

The problem with BMD is, as a military program it is both not enough and at the same time irrelevant to national security needs even in the United States, let alone for Canada. No system could defend sufficiently against massive nuclear attack and those who

might use nuclear devices as a weapon are not likely to do so by launching a few ballistic missiles for a BMD system to destroy. Even smuggled nuclear warheads or fissile material exploded as 'dirty bombs' or chemical/biological attacks like the sarin nerve gas incident in the Tokyo subway; show how a technologically perfect BMD system is functionally irrelevant. And as 9/11 2001 and now 3/11 2004 have demonstrated, terrorists can and will make use of 'conventional' weapons to inflict massive casualties and damage against their targets.

So what is the logic of BMD, and of Canada's possible participation in the US programs? Of course, it's political and economic. It's true, and understandable, that 9/11 changed the psyche of America on national security and that America can afford BMD (they would say) so why not do it anyway, even as insurance against an unlikely scenario? That being the case, if

**The problem with BMD is, as a military program it is both not enough and at the same time irrelevant to security needs**

Canada fails to take part we risk being seen as a weak link, losing any influence or access to a program that (like NORAD) must have implications for Canadian airspace. It not seen and heard as well. For US defense planners ballistic missiles could be launched, in theory, from any direction and would be intercepted as early as possible during, or after launch. That could happen in, or over, Canadian territory. Fail to participate and we lose the right to any voice in such planning. If you don't vote you have no real claim to be taken seriously when you complain about the result, right?

But Canada, as Ambassador Paul Heinbecker has pointed out, was right to reject US arguments for war against Iraq. The Bush Administration had not made the case. In fact, their case either was based on poor intelligence or on

deliberately spun lies. Take your pick. The Government of Canada chose to support broader principles and values, in particular the need for UN Security Council authorization, over intense US pressure to buy into their definition of an 'imminent threat'.

Supporting the US-led invasion of Afghanistan and committing Canadian troops to the ground operations alongside American forces has been appreciated by the Pentagon. But did it lead the White House or Congress to change policies on softwood lumber? Did more American firms decide to 'buy Canadian' because of our cooperation? What are the broader economic consequences of buying into particular US defense programs or refusing to do so?

Canada's defense industry is closely integrated into the US market. Might Canada lose valuable high technology jobs and firms if the US decided to 'punish' us for refusing to join and support BMD?

Possibly, but did they do so noticeably over Iraq? Conversely, were Canadian manufacturers specially rewarded for Canada's participation in the Afghanistan campaign? I didn't see reports suggesting that they were.

BMD raises many other questions – from debates about breaking previous treaties, the potential for weaponization of space, and encouraging nuclear proliferation to overwhelm any such defense, to simple pork-barrelling by manufacturers and defense constituencies. It has developed momentum and a life of its own in the United States' security agenda. The Government of Canada will have to make choices in response. But with unclear military value and equally murky economic or political benefits and costs – or losses – the case for BMD in Canada is not self-evident or compelling.

*Alistair Edgar is a Professor of Political Science at Laurier as well as the Executive Director of the Academic Council on the United Nations System*

## Weapons of Mass Destruction and Missile Defense Initiative News Briefs

### RUSSIA BUILDS 'UNSTOPPABLE' MISSILE



Russia has begun perfecting and testing a long range missile that they claim can evade any missile defense system. Since pulling out of the Anti-Ballistic Missile treaty (ABM) in 2002, fears of a new arms race have been renewed. "The test carried out yesterday confirm that we can build weapons which will render any anti-missile system defenceless against any attack by Russia's strategic forces."

- Col-Gen Yuri Baluyevsky, Russian Chief of Staff

### PAKISTAN TESTS LONG RANGE MISSILE

All Indian cities now within range of Pakistan's Shaheen II missile system. Pakistan and India are among the newest nuclear powers, but neither are officially recognized. "Our strategic force goals are guided by the concept of minimum credible deterrence and that's why we have to test these missiles from time to time"

- Masood Khan  
Pakistan's Foreign Ministry spokesman



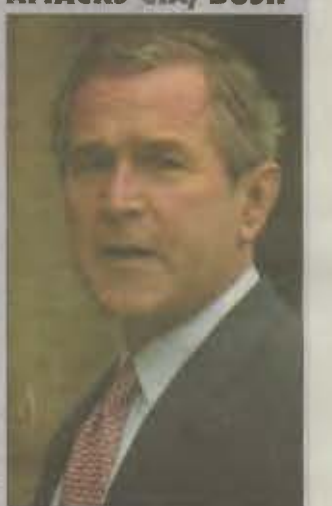
### IAEA'S EL BARADEI TO RE-ENTER IRAN



Head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Mohamed el Baradei announced that Iran will be allowing inspections to resume on the 27th of March after a lengthy Iranian caused delay. "I hope and trust there will be no further delays in respect to any future inspection in Iran," Mr ElBaradei said. "It is clearly in the interest of Iran to cooperate fully with the IAEA." There has been speculation that Iran will postpone inspections again.

### US SENATE REPORT ATTACKS CIA, BUSH

The United States Senate Intelligence Committee released a report attacking CIA director George Tenet among others for misrepresenting the weapon capabilities of Iraq before the war. At the time it was firmly stated that Iraq had chemical and biological weapons and would have nuclear weapons within the decade. The Bush Administration has been reeling from criticism over his "case for war" in Iraq.



Compiled by Bryn Boyce



Sarah Graves

## Terms and Key Themes

**ABM Treaty:** The Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty was signed in May 1972 in Moscow between the USSR and the United States. The treaty was signed to limit the number of ballistic missile sites each country was permitted inside their borders. In May 2001 President George W. Bush reneged on the treaty stating that, "...we must move beyond the constraints of the 30-year-old ABM Treaty."

**Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty:** One of the most successful anti-arms treaties, the NPT entered into power in 1970 with 43 countries (including the US and USSR) signing on. Today the treaty, which aims to limit the spread and growth of nuclear weapons, has 187 members. Only Israel, India and Pakistan are non-members.

**IAEA:** The International Atomic Energy Agency is the UN's main weapons inspection agency (among other nuclear related matters) and is headed by Mr. Mohamed el Baradei. The IAEA is currently seeking to inspect Iran's nuclear capabilities.

**BMD:** Ballistic Missile Defense consists of a system of missile batteries in space or on land that attempt to knock out incoming nuclear missiles



# Volunteering: the heart of Laurier

A wide range of extra-curricular activities facilitates learning experiences beyond only books and four walls

**MICHELLE PINCHEV**  
Staff Writer

Laurier students are uniquely fortunate, with education extending far beyond lectures and texts. Among the advantages of attending a small school are that many activities, events and foundations that are the very pulse of life are condensed and interrelated, while in other schools people are much more spread out and disconnected.

At the heart of WLU is its multitude of opportunities to get involved and learn new skills through volunteering. Most services, activities and volunteer opportunities at Laurier can essentially be traced back to two student-run organizations, the Students' Union and Student Publications.

## Students' Union

WLUSU, the largest student government in Canada housing approximately 1300 volunteers every year including 300 part-time paid positions. Shockingly, volunteering is so prominent in our school that an entire committee is devoted to simply hiring for the various departments, whereupon students undergo an extensive application and interviewing process.

This month WLUSU has already completed a lot of its hiring, but many general

positions are still open and applications are due this Friday, March 19. Sarah Carroll, the current Human Resources VP, oversees the hiring committee which includes 50 volunteers responsible for the application screening, interviewing and hiring processes.

The questions asked during the interviews are "behav-

**"There are around 10,000 students on campus and only 1300 volunteer positions..."**

Sarah Carroll  
WLUSU VP: Human Resources

journal-based." Carroll explains that they are used because "research shows that past behaviours are the best indications of future behaviours," as opposed to situational-based questions. For instance, the hiring committee is more interested in how you have dealt with certain situations in the past than how you would hypothetically deal with one that may occur in the future.

Along with behavioural-based interviewing, the hiring committee follows a 'STARR' system, which asks candidates to describe situations, tasks, actions, results

and how they all relate back to the position for they are applying. "It's just a guideline to give people a sense of what we're looking for," says Carroll. She adds, "except in extreme cases, everyone who applies should be given an opportunity for an interview."

With overwhelming applications every year, all applying is now done online at the Students' Union website ([www.wlusu.com](http://www.wlusu.com)). The hiring committee grades all of the applications and with the implementation of the online system, it is completely unbiased. Everything about the applicant including his or her name, age, gender or any personal information is unknown by the committee.

According to Carroll, all the positions are re-opened every year and as a result priority is not necessarily attached to seniority and every person is given an equal chance of selection. She points out "there are around 10,000 students on campus and only 1300 volunteer positions."

Carroll acknowledges that certain positions, such as Icebreaker, Foot Patrol or BACCHUS deal largely with the public and attract a lot of attention. As a result, many people, especially first years, overlook many of the other opportunities offered by WLUSU and these prominent positions become much more competitive.

Human Resources requests that people consider all of the committees when applying. There is plenty of information about each offered at volunteer fairs such as those held this week in the Hall of Fame and all of the necessary information is available on the WLUSU website.

"There are a lot of committees that get less publicity or because of their nature, are less well known. People will be happiest if they apply for something they are interested in," says Carroll.

For instance, if you are interested in business or marketing as a future career, consider the Marketing or Finance departments. "There



Erika Ivanic

**If you want to have a real volunteer experience, join Student Publications, just kidding WLUSU, don't kick us out of our office...**

is a huge need for graphic design volunteers, for example. People don't realize how diverse the opportunities are."

Many students don't even realize that there is a charity council (LUCK), which raises money for charities in the Kitchener/Waterloo region or that aspiring young cinematographers can volunteer to work with a video production team for WLUSU. Even the campus clubs, of which there are at least 60, must seek approval and funding from WLUSU's Campus Clubs committee. In fact, any Laurier student can start a club if there is enough support for it.

Prior skills or training are not necessary, Carroll explains. "If you feel passionately about it and you understand the position, you don't necessarily need to have been involved in the past. We provide all the training."

The Wilfrid Laurier Students' Union runs and owns Wilf's, The Turret and most of the Terrace. In fact, the entire building (the Fred Nichols Campus Centre) belongs to it.

For those who have previously been in the dark about WLUSU and their operations, this will break it down for you. Laurier's Students' Union consists of a President's department and six others including a department for Marketing, Student Activities, Student Services, Finance, Human Resources Development and University Affairs.

WLUSU has a 15 member board of directors elected by the student body, who were elected last month. In addition to a President and Vice President of University Affairs, there are five hired Vice Presidents, each of whom oversees a department. Within each department there are various committees headed by executives and one coordinator who oversees the whole group, including the

many sign-up and hired volunteers that participate.

## Student Publications

If WLUSU is the heart, then Student Publications is definitely the framework that keeps everything connected. Student Publications includes The Cord newspaper, Blueprint magazine, Keystone (the Laurier yearbook), ClubLaurier website, and other projects such as the WLU day-planner and phone directory, overseen by The Cord Editor-in-Chief.

Student Publications is also hiring this week with applications due on Friday. The Editor-in-Chief for The Cord has already been selected and the process of interviewing for section editors and selected writing positions will soon commence.

Laura Jardine, the President of Student Publications, says that positions are open for department heads, section editors and one additional board member, of which there are six and she greatly encourages students to apply.

"I think that Laurier is really unique because it has such a large volunteer base. I've personally been involved with student publications for the past four years," says Jardine.

"I've found it very rewarding. Everyone is motivated and loves what they do."

## For further information:

Both Student Publications and WLUSU are located on the third floor of the Fred Nichols Campus Centre. Information on volunteering and applications can be obtained there or on [clublaurier.ca](http://clublaurier.ca), Student Publication's popular website. Cord articles and information on various student publications can be found there as well



Erika Ivanic

Student Services offers a multitude of opportunities to get involved.

# Fashion and dance unite

*Continued from cover*

However, the first scene began with anything but high energy. It took me a minute to figure out what was going on when a man in a suit appeared on stage with a cell phone. The character, John Stone, was working with a mysterious woman, Emma (whom we never met), to steal a set of priceless paintings and a diamond.

While the Pink Panther, Inspector Gadget, and Where's Waldo sequence was eye-catching, it lacked the initial energetic punch needed to grab my interest and pull me into the storyline and music. A parade of models that strutted down the runway with jeans and M.O. t-shirts made a robotic intro that was also missing energy and didn't seem necessary.

I have to admit, I didn't pay much attention to the carefully integrated storyline. I'm not sure if it was my anticipating the upcoming dance sequences, or the bland acting that caused my attention span to dissipate during dialogue.

Nevertheless, as the scenes of the story changed, it allowed for different dancing occasions like in clubs, police chases and life on the streets.

Overall, the quality of dancing was very high, especially taking into consideration that many F 'n M performers have had no previous dance training. There were no major muffs aside from the occasional dancer who was not quite in sync with the rest. I personally enjoyed a scene featuring swing music and tap dancing. The dancing and costumes in "Tap'd Out" were of high quality and engaged the audience.

"Into the Void" utilized masked individuals and fostered a primal feel as performers drummed a heart-beat-rhythm for dancers. This interesting scene is followed by a vigorous dance sequence starring a gang of male criminals who amaze the audience with flips and dives across the stage.

The audience remained engaged throughout intermission by two break-dancing wonders who won a

Wilf's dance-off and a runway display of styles from The Green Monkey. Models featured summer and swim-suit wear, and showed a PG-rated amount of skin.

Nearing the end, "The Countdown" used great lighting and artistic dance to illustrate the demise of Stone's plan. The instant replay was precise and professional. At this point, I was ready for the end of "M.O." to arrive, as the production seemed to drag on but the performances continued to be engaging and admirable.

We all know that spring is here when Sunday afternoons see an empty Concourse instead of bouncing and twirling F 'n M dancers. I'm sure they'll start practicing for next year in no time.

**FOR A SECOND OPINION ON FASHION 'N MOTION:**  
Last year's reviewer has some returning words

See page 19

# Show's proceeds go to DREAMS

**APRIL CUNNINGHAM**  
News Editor

Fashion 'n Motion, which is known to work on a gigantic budget and depends on support from corporate sponsors, chose to donate all profits to a new campus club, DREAMS (Dominican Republic Education and Medical Support).

The club's aim is to help provide opportunities for education and improved health accessibility in impoverished villages in the

Dominican Republic. They also hope to send students to these villages to help with building projects while interacting with local citizens.

Although Fashion 'n Motion executives do not yet know how much will be donated to DREAMS, close to maximum ticket revenue was brought in. Tickets were sold out for the Friday evening, Saturday matinee and Saturday evening performances, and just five tickets were left for Thursday's opening night.



# Do you walk on the Hawk?

School spirit is indicative of the Laurier environment and helps to make students well-rounded individuals

A student who isn't actively involved shouldn't be shunned for it



**It's blasphemy**

Lauren Thompson

I chose Laurier as the university that I would be attending for four important years of my life after visiting its March Break open house, where it was evident that Laurier was more than just a school, it was a community. I was astonished at the amount of students that were willing to give up their day to help recruit more students to their school. Everyone was so helpful and outgoing that a very hard decision I had been stressing over for months was decided for me that day.

The reason I was so amazed at the amount of student involvement at Laurier was because I had gone through my five years of high school never really giving a thought to sacrificing my precious teenage years to any serious membership at an organization. It was a special day when I walked through the doors of Wilfrid Laurier University as a self-centred, lazy teenager and gained enlightenment and emerged as a selfless adult ready to forfeit my free time to join the legions of students already involved.

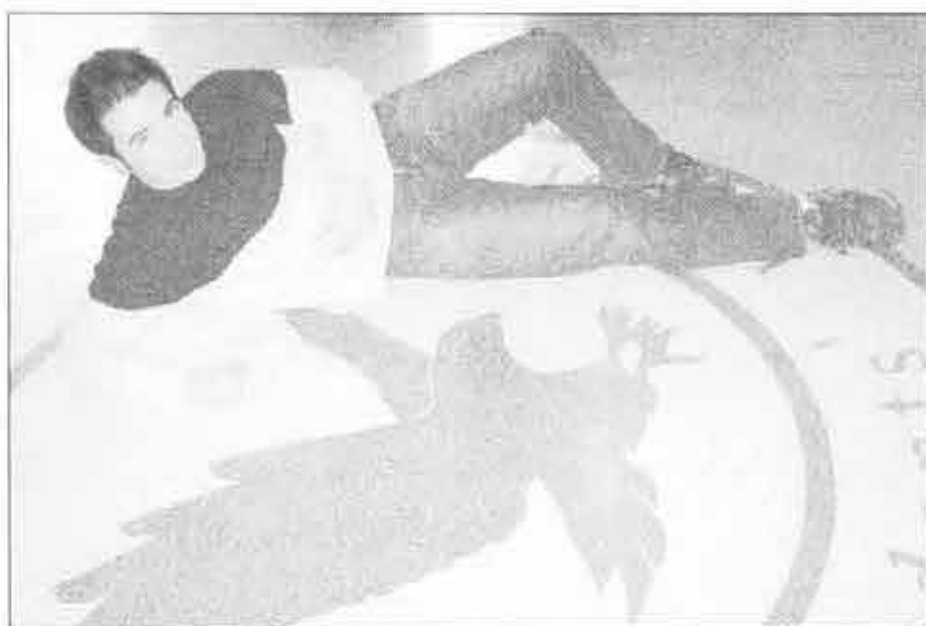
Now that I am in my second year, it's rare that I ever meet an individual who is not involved in any of the extra-curricular organizations available, anything from a writer on The Cord to an Icebreaker to a member of the Chinese Students Association. Currently I am actively involved in two organizations and still I feel as though it is not quite enough. As a result, I am endeavouring to participate

in more activities for this coming year.

There are many benefits to joining these extra-curricular activities, including the valuable experience of gaining the ability to work successfully within a team environment. The business world that greets us at the time of graduation has recently come to identify teamwork as an asset. Extra-curriculars also allow those with natural leadership skills to stand out and perfect this talent, which is also a business asset, obvious to anyone who is glued to the television Thursday nights watching "The

and need an atmosphere that encourages their guard to be let down and impels them to bloom. This is also an excellent opportunity to gain contacts that can be used upon graduation when the sheltered existence fades and an intimidating real world is faced in which quality jobs are rare.

Unfortunately, not every person at Laurier acknowledges the merits of school involvement. Many prefer to stand on the sidelines and watch the volunteers do the real work. I have a theory that these individuals can be differentiated from the latter



Erika Ivanic

Contrary to how it may appear, Tyler from RadioLaurier is not trying to seduce the hawk, but is only showing his school spirit.

Apprentice." Essentially, getting involved in school activities is a good résumé builder.

Another benefit of involvement stems from its social aspect. It gives the opportunity, especially for first-year students, to expand their messenger 'buddy' lists as new friends are encountered. This is especially advantageous to those students like me who may be a little shy

through observation in the Hall of Fame. I hypothesize that these individuals are the very people who do not give a second thought to trudging their feet across the illustration of Laurier's mascot, the beloved Hawk. The Hawk represents everything good and decent about Laurier, like its prominent school spirit.



**To each's own**

Shannon Kohlmeier

I admit it, I cannot tell a lie. I have walked on The Hawk. I'm not an angry or a mean person, I just think that it is silly that this sacred emblem is on the floor. When you go to a Catholic Church, at least Jesus is up on a shelf and not plastered into the ground of a high traffic area. Seriously people, The Hawk is on the floor and sometimes I am just way too busy to think about what I am walking on. If everyone was honest with themselves, I bet they would agree that The Hawk is in an inconvenient place.

Frankly, this is an academic institution and at any given moment you can find someone practically leaping to avoid the hawk. I understand the idea of tradition but this one is silly. Usually, when I do avoid The Hawk, it is because a club is sitting in front of it staring at me.

I often question why I feel guilty when I pass these volunteer booths. Is it because they are doing something worthwhile and I am on my way to buy a pita? Possibly, but I think it is because at Laurier there is a lot of pressure to be a part of something. I know plenty of people who are not in any club or organization and yet they manage to be amazing people. Where does this overwhelming feeling to belong to something come from? There's Foot Patrol, Bacchus, WLUSU, RadioLaurier, Fashion 'n' Motion, ERT, and the list goes on. I have never been apart of any of these and probably never will be.

Obviously I write for The Cord but only because I can

do it from home. In the grand scheme of things at Laurier, let's face it I'm hardly changing anyone's life. I do not protect people from rapists or teach people how to drink safely but I do something that makes me happy. It took me a while but I have finally stopped feeling bad for not giving my time to the 'popular' organizations. They just are not for me and I accept that, do you? I have the utmost respect for the people who do make Laurier a better place in obvious ways but I want to point out the fact that lots of people do things that go unrecognized.

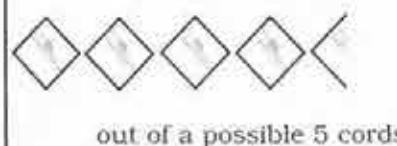
Frankly, this is an academic institution and at any given moment you can find someone practically leaping to avoid the hawk

It took me a while to realize that not finding an important place for myself in the Students' Union did not mean that I was not a part of Laurier or that I was missing out on something. I think spirit is sometimes pushed on us and if we say, "no thanks" to Fashion 'n' Motion or Charity Ball tickets, we are made to feel like outcasts.

On the WLU website, President and Vice-Chancellor, Robert G. Rosehart asserts, "Laurier is an institution with a strong sense of self, a resounding school spirit and a deep commitment to our purpose." I think that for each student whose purpose is different and no one should feel guilty if their agenda is different from the person sitting beside them in class.

## Food for Thought

**Restaurant:** Solé  
**Location:** 83 Erb Street W  
**Phone:** 747-5622  
**Type:** Restaurant and Wine Bar  
**Cord's Rating:**



out of a possible 5 cords

**DAVE BONE**  
Restaurant Reviewer

There are several different reasons why people go to restaurants, anything from the rudimentary purpose of filling their bellies, to eating in a social environment, to trying something new.

Something that differentiates many places of dining from others is the experience, where the restaurant is not only providing a meal but other intangible aspects that are unique to that particular location. Solé Restaurant and Wine Bar is one of the aforementioned dining establishments that offer much more than just a meal. Located in the 150-year-old Seagram building right across the street from the Waterloo Rec Centre, Solé's interior is definitely better experienced than described,

but here goes nothing.

They have a huge dining room with nice booths and tables, along with an impressive wine bar with extra seats, perfect for relaxing while listening to the smooth jazz tunes that echo from the live jazz available on Saturday evenings. Overhead is a huge timber frame ceiling looming over massive wooden crossbeams that give it a rustic yet elegant atmosphere.

After taking in our surroundings, our server promptly came over to us and we began our lunch by ordering a bottle of wine. An extensive wine list is featured with wines from all over the world varying in price from relatively affordable to high-end prices. We decided on a white wine and went with the Cave Spring Chardonnay (\$27) from the 2000 vintage, a nice Ontario white that is slightly acidic while delivering a buttery oak finish. It was a great lunch wine and the only drawback was that the wine service provided by our server was less than professional, breaking multiple wine service commandments like not pouring the wine throughout the meal and opening the bottle while resting it on the table. That being said, there are much bigger things in

life to concern yourself with and it was not a big deal.

We began with some starters, my friend ordering a Caesar salad (\$6.90) with a creamy garlic dressing, shaved Parmesan, pancetta, and croutons, while I chose the light lunch salad special. It consisted of mixed greens with a raspberry dressing along with shrimp, smoked salmon and goat's cheese in a creamy sauce and puff pastry wedges to top it all off.

Both salads were excellent, and I was impressed with the flavour combinations and the creativity of my dish. Solé has a few other salads as well like the Vine Ripe Tomato and Feta Salad (\$6.90) and the Baby Spinach Salad (\$6.90) to go along with other tantalizing appetizers like warm Woolwich Goat Cheese baked in filo pastry (\$9.90) and Steamed PEI Mussels (\$9.90). Throughout the menu a distinctively Mediterranean flare is evident as Solé makes an effort to be unique and feature premium foods prepared in a style from that area of the world.

Moving along to the entrées, there is a wide range of options available at lunch.

You can go with one of their original pizzas like the Quattro Stagione Pizza (\$9.50 - thin crust pizza with



www.sole.ca

**Sole gives more than just a meal**

artichokes, kalamata olives, roasted red peppers, Italian sausage and Mozzarella) or the simple Margherita Pizza (\$8.50 - fresh basil, tomato sauce and mozzarella).

Another option is one of their sandwich style meals like the Grilled Chicken Salad Wrap (\$13.90) or the mouth-watering Grilled Steak Sandwich (\$14.90) with a Chipotle BBQ sauce. Still more decisions await you in the vegetarian and pasta portion of the menu with choices like Creamy Thai Risotto (\$12.90), Roasted Sweet Bell Peppers (\$13.90) or Farfalle (\$13.90) with smoked chicken along with a host of vegetables. Although all those options

looked extremely appetizing, it was under the entrées section that we found our meals as we both chose the New York Striploin (\$16.90). It was centre cut and served with a Madeira wine reduction, succulent mashed potatoes and vegetables. The steak was the perfect size for lunch and was an excellent follow-up to my salad. Other entrées available include a Coquille of Sea Scallops and Tiger Shrimp (\$16.90) and Apple Cinnamon Poached Atlantic Salmon (\$15.90) among others, which all sounded delectable.

After a satisfying meal, there was still one round to go as we looked at the casual after-dinner reading material or more affectionately known as the dessert menu. My friend had a Strawberry Banana Cheesecake with chocolate drizzle and I went with a huge crêpe filled with strawberries and chocolate.

Both desserts were impressive, although by this time we had begun to expect nothing less. I left Solé with full intentions to return the next time I felt like treating myself to good service, fabulous food, and a remarkable dining experience.





## He Said / She Said



### Stress doesn't have to take over your entire life

Dear He Said/She Said,

Lately I've been feeling really stressed out from everything I'm involved with and I'm starting to lose my temper with everyone around me, whether they deserve it or not. I'm worried that I might lose some of my friends or anger my family. What do you recommend that I do?

- Short fuse

#### GOT A PROBLEM?

He said/she said will be happy to offer their advice. Email questions to [hesaidshesaid@wlu.com](mailto:hesaidshesaid@wlu.com)

He Said...  
**DAN ROTH**

Are we a little short-fused lately? Well I'm sure everyone can relate to what you're going through. I can't think of anyone who has had such a perfect go at things that they've never been stressed out before.

I think the best solution to your problem is to let everyone who you are in contact with know that you are really feeling the pressure of school, work or life in general and you'll be your usual self again. Just make sure everyone is aware that if you start getting temperamental it isn't them. I would also recommend you learn some stress-reducing activities, even something as simple as counting to ten.

It isn't healthy to be stressed out to the point where you're losing your cool on a regular basis. Try to set aside one hour a day to do something that you really enjoy so that you always have something to look forward to. I would also suggest that you write down some goals, either for the short or long-term. This way when you start to feel the pressure of everything you can look at what you want and how everything you're going through will be worth it in the end.

If none of these suggestions help, I'd suggest you drop by a counselling office. Sometimes high stress can be the source of deeper problems than school or work.

She Said...  
**LAURIE VANDENHOFF**

Not everyone can be a cool cat because some people are just better at dealing with stressful situations. Besides, I'm sure every person experiences anxiety from time to time. By telling your family and friends your issues, they will be more tolerant of your behaviour.

The most vital method to keeping your head on straight is organization. Plan your activities, appointments and due dates so that you won't become overwhelmed.

Also remember to schedule in a breather for yourself. No one can be a work horse all of the time and occasionally we need a little time for ourselves. Rent a movie, go to the gym or visit some friends. A little distraction never hurt anyone.

You might also want to apologize to the people you have already offended because chances are they don't realize the situation you're in but they can help you get through this. If they are really your friends they will empathize with you and be supportive.

Finally, keep your eye on the ball. By focusing on your goals, the end will come sooner than you expected. It will also help you stay motivated and may even lift your spirits. Just communicate with your friends and family about your concerns and they will understand and keep you composed.



## Horoscope

WEEK OF MARCH 17-23

Happy Birthday  
Pisces/Aries

After a tumultuous year everything will start to fall into place around the same time as your birthday. Expect a surprise beyond what you are anticipating. Make sure you stay on top of your work; you will fall behind faster than you expect if you don't.

Libra

September 24 - October 22

Everyone around you could be after you to help them with their problems. If you can help that's great but don't spread yourself too thin, you should remove yourself from any negative situations. Don't be bothered by other people.

Luckiest day: March 23.

Aries

March 21 - April 19

Things are going to start settling down in your life. Everything is going to work out the way you intend. To ensure things go your way, make sure to write down any goals or dreams you might have. You'll have a few surprises towards the end of the month.

Luckiest day: March 19.

Taurus

April 20 - May 20

Financially, things are going to be improving over the next while. Make sure you don't go on any shopping sprees because unexpected bills or costs could sneak up on you. Things are going to calm down for you, expect stability for a while.

Luckiest day: March 20.

Gemini

May 21 - June 21

You will continue to keep growing in a relationship either with a friend or a partner. Don't over analyze things though; it will result in you getting stuck on an issue. Don't look for a situation that doesn't exist either, just allow things to happen on their own.

Luckiest day: March 21.

Cancer

June 22 - July 22

Expect something unusual to happen quite soon. You will be either starting a new relationship or taking the next step in a relationship. It's advisable to voice your opinion but don't push the issue. You don't want to seem bossy.

Luckiest day: March 21.

Leo

July 23 - August 22

Don't turn your back on any financial issues. Things are not going to be fixed on their own, you must make some more decisions. Don't be too proud to ask for help regarding any issue though, your friends will always be happy to help.

Luckiest day: March 22.

Virgo

August 23 - September 23

Someone new will be entering your life in the near future. This person is going to be exactly what you need at this time. Expect lots of new things to follow. Someone may offer you the option of trying something different this week.

Luckiest day: March 21.

Scorpio

October 23 - November 21

You are going to feel like a giant weight has been lifted from your shoulders. All the extra work you've done in the past is going to start paying off. It's time for you to reward yourself and celebrate, focus on yourself for the next while.

Luckiest day: March 20.

Sagittarius

November 22 - December 21

Make sure you are keeping a close eye on your finances; you could end up paying for someone else's error. Better days are ahead but for now you should stay focused on what you need and not what you would like.

Luckiest day: March 19.

Capricorn

December 22 - January 19

Many different situations are going to keep you busy for the next while. Make sure you deal with each problem individually, don't combine your problems because it will only make things worse. Try and focus on what you want for the next while.

Luckiest day: March 17.

Aquarius

January 20 - February 19

You could be starting a new friendship in the near future. This friendship also has the potential to be more if the two of you are looking for a relationship. If you are attached, don't ignore the relationship, either end it or work on improving it.

Luckiest day: March 23.

Pisces

February 20 - March 20

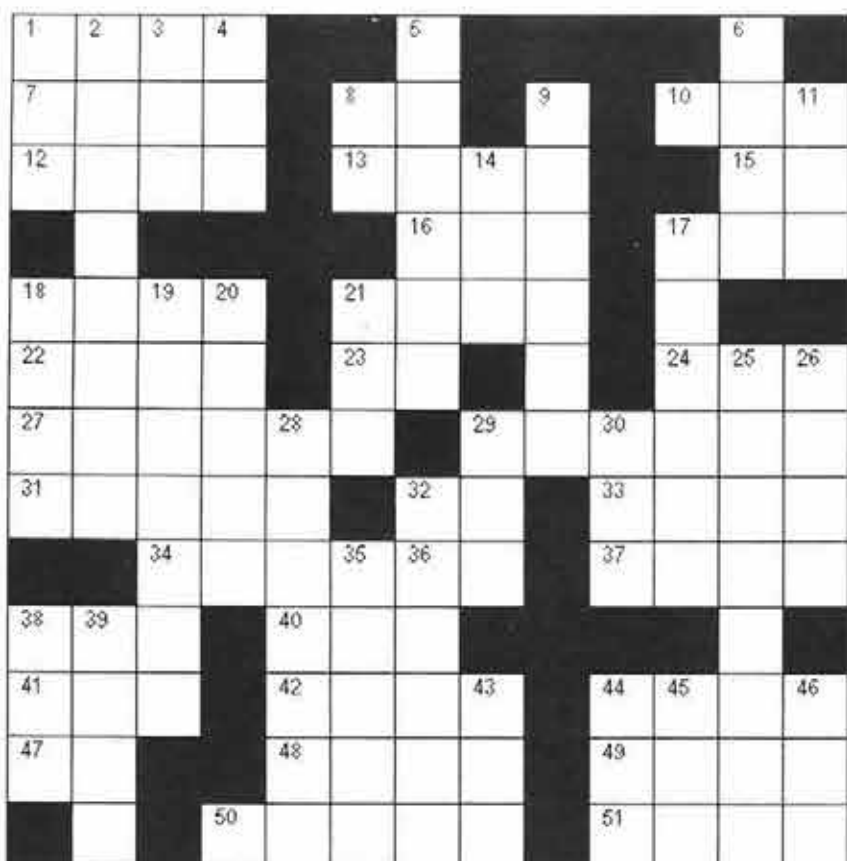
All of your hard work will pay off. It's time for you to start spending time on yourself again. Take a day out of the week and pamper yourself without worrying about what you still have to do, it will get done after you reward yourself.

Luckiest day: March 21.

Daniel Roth is a Journalism graduate of Conestoga College and is currently a communication studies student at Wilfrid Laurier. He has studied astrology and other topics of that genre for almost 10 years.

## CROSSWORD

By: Fraser King



50. What a wizard can cast

51. Noxious smoke

Down:

1. Ocean

2. Reprove gently but earnestly

3. General of the Confederacy

4. Paid to the government

5. Anime series with Zechs

6. A region

8. Commanding officer abbrev.

14. Web \_\_\_ or \_\_\_ where

17. Rare or uncommon

18. Oil nation org.

19. Rapper [3 words]

20. Strong, melancholy desire.

21. Done with the eyes

25. Assert, again

26. Small pie or a prostitute

28. Thick fog

29. Anti-Terrorism Officer abbrev.

30. Highspeed internet connection

32. Urgent request

35. Felt in the veins

38. Grand Theft Auto

39. Villain from *Othello*

43. Greenland abbrev.

44. \_\_\_ Jones, band

45. University of Utrecht abbrev.

46. Edgar Allan \_\_\_

Across:

1. NaCl

7. Famous sorceress

8. Copper, on the periodic table

10. Internet Relay Chat

12. American Express abbrev.

13. One time

15. Videogame maker

16. Holds back water

17. Cutting tool

18. Misfits founding member.

21. Not different

22. What dirty laundry comes in

23. Phonetic M

24. Subjective creation

27. To get away

29. Opera singer, \_\_\_ Bocelli

31. Domestic duty

32. @

33. Healed wound remains

34. Type of monkey

37. Not right

38. Money, in *Final Fantasy*

40. Slang greeting

41. \_\_\_ Mahal

42. Russian name

47. Silver, on periodic table

28. Beastman of Sharom

49. European currency

Are you a student? Do you have a life? Diverse opinions wanted for Student Life.

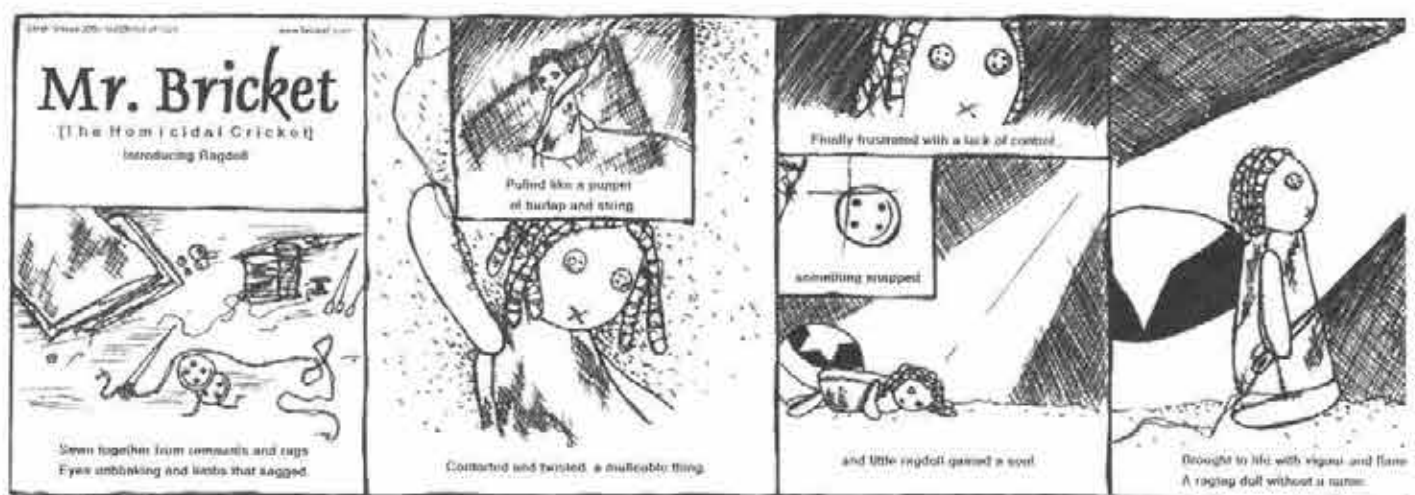
Email us at:  
[studentlife\\_wlu@hotmail.com](mailto:studentlife_wlu@hotmail.com)  
or visit us on the third floor of the FNCC



# Weekly Bad Drawing

By Pete Cram

Everything is funner on St. Patty's Day!!



## WANT TO DRAW A COMIC? PLEASE.

E-mail cord@wlusp.com  
or 884.0710 x. 3564

## Modus Operandi revisited

JENNIFER ASSELIN  
News Editor

After having attended Fashion 'n Motion for the past three years, I can safely say this year's performance went above and beyond dancing, modelling and actig.

"Modus Operandi" saw the dancers and performers come together as a cohesive unit to execute a well formed and entertaining story line.

The dance sequences were in sync for the most part, with only the odd person

falling behind or running out on stage at the last minute, but otherwise things seemed to run smoothly.

One thing that I found to be a good addition was the inclusion of a mini-fashion show after the intermission. As the primary focus is on dancing, here we were able to see what the "fashion" in Fashion 'n Motion was all about.

As a whole, the show this year was marginally better than last.

# Ethical Dilemma

of the week

### Question:

I was recently given a group assignment in one of my classes. It is a very long assignment and has proven to be quite challenging. We've worked very hard on it and it's almost finished but we're not sure that all the answers are correct. We're also having difficulty with the final section and can't figure it out. My roommate is also taking the course and has asked if we wanted to collaborate and try to figure the question out together. I've heard of students getting in trouble for this in the past but I don't think that we can finish this assignment in time without some kind of help. When exactly does col-

laboration become plagiarism and when do I know if I've crossed the line?

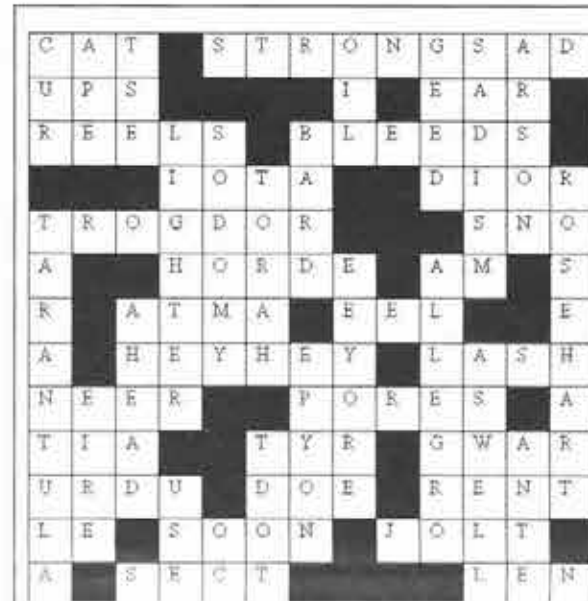
### Answer:

The WLU University Undergraduate Calendar, which can be found at [www.wlu.ca](http://www.wlu.ca), defines academic misconduct or plagiarism as the following:

- 1) the unacknowledged presentation, in whole or in part, of the work of others as one's own, whether in written, oral or other form, in an examination, report, assignment, thesis or dissertation
- 2) buying or otherwise obtaining term papers or assignments for submission of another person's work as one's own for evaluation

As a general rule, it's fine to talk to other students about fundamental approaches and help each other to understand concepts. However, it is not advisable to look at another person's written work or share answers through any means. If you have any questions about specific situations, it is best to speak to your professor. When in doubt, any answer you get on your own is better than a zero on an assignment or worse, getting expelled from the school.

ACE Laurier is committed to teaching business and business ethics to students and community members. Have an ethical question?  
E-mail: [ethics@wlusp.com](mailto:ethics@wlusp.com)



We've got the answers to last week's crossword - phew!



## HIRING

**Applications Due: Friday, March 19, 2004 by noon**

**Human Resources Manager**

**Marketing Manager**

**IT Manager**

**Advertising Ad Production Manager**

**Advertising Administrative Assistant**

**Photography Manager (2 positions)**

**Copy Editing Manager**

**Corporate Secretary**

**WLUSP Board of**

**Directors member**

**Distribution Manager**

**Cord Production Manager**

**Cord Section Editors**

Pick up your application in the  
Student Publications office (in the drop box on the main desk)

or get the application online at

**[www.clublaurier.ca](http://www.clublaurier.ca)**

For further information, contact Laura Jardine at (519) 884-0710 ext 3565

or e-mail [laura.jardine@wlusp.com](mailto:laura.jardine@wlusp.com)



# Lady Hawks fall at CIS finals

For the second year in a row, the hawks go winless in the CIS nationals

**BERNARD DAWSON**  
Staff Writer

For the second year in a row the Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawks advanced to the CIS Women's Basketball championships, and for the second year in a row came home winless. A pair of heartbreaking losses to the number one ranked Regina Cougars and a solid Bishop's Gaiteers squad ended Laurier's stunning run to the CIS Nationals.

In their first match of the tournament, the Hawks were matched up against the eventual silver medalist University of Regina Cougars. While the setting was different, the Lady Hawks suffered from a familiar season-long problem. It was another tale of two halves for Laurier.

During the first half the Hawks could not hit anything as they shot an abysmal 25% from the field. Regina controlled the pace of the game and by the end of the half had built up a 39-23 lead over the Golden Hawks.

As usual the Hawks were

a completely different team in the second half. Instead of forcing bad shots, the Lady Hawks settled down and put pressure on the Cougars. Laurier was able to match the talented Cougars shot for shot during the second frame, but they were only able to keep the Regina lead from expanding.

**"We feel pretty good about this team's chances to return to the CIS Championship for the third year in a row"**

**-Stu Julius, Head Coach**

In the end the monumental effort put forward by Laurier in the second half was not enough to pull ahead of the Cougars. The game ended with the Lady Hawks on the losing side of a 68-52 score. The loss dropped the team to the consolation side

of the CIS finals.

Next up for Laurier was a date with the Bishop's Gaiteers. This time around the Lady Hawks played somewhat better in the first half, even taking an early lead. However, poor shooting got the team in trouble again and the Gaiteers took advantage, jumping out to a 31-21 lead at halftime.

After the break Laurier finally began to shoot better, only to be matched by the tough squad from Bishop's, who also improved their play. Both teams played a more exciting brand of basketball in the second half, but the Lady Hawks could not make even a dent in the Gaiteers' lead.

Bishop's outscored Laurier in the second half by a 45-40 margin despite the best efforts of the Lady Hawks to climb back into the game. The match ended in a 76-61 win for the eventual consolation round champion Gaiteers.

While the Hawks failed to win a game at the CIS Nationals, head coach Stu Julius was still proud of his team. "We definitely competed and we were not blown out," he stated before later adding "We were one of only



www.laurierathletics.com

Laurier guard Laura Taylor takes a free throw against the Bishop Gaiteers. The Hawks lost 76 - 61 to Bishops and 68 - 52 to Regina

three teams returning to Nationals for the second year in a row."

Julius also felt good about his team's chances to return to the CIS Championships for the third year in a row. "We feel pretty good about what we have; we made it to Nationals two years in a row

with the same team."

It is expected that the Hawks will lose only one senior, guard Rebecca Williams. So the squad that has made back to back CIS championship appearances will be back for another run at glory.

# March Madness is in the air



Derek Iwanuk



Bernard Dawson



Mike Brown



Shawn Parker



Dan Wilson

It's time for the annual *Cord* Sports NCAA predictions. Last year saw Bernard Dawson win the pool, but will the Bman be lucky this year or fall to 18 year old sensation Mike Brown? Bowler expert Dan Wilson? Resident football player Shawn Parker? Three year forecast veteran Derek Iwanuk? *The Cord* is not responsible for any bets you may lose by reading these predictions.

|                                 | Derek    | Mike      | Bernard | Shawn    | Dan      |                                | Derek    | Mike     | Bernard | Shawn    | Dan      |
|---------------------------------|----------|-----------|---------|----------|----------|--------------------------------|----------|----------|---------|----------|----------|
| 1st Round: Mid-West/ East       |          |           |         |          |          | First Round: West/South        |          |          |         |          |          |
| (1)Kentucky - (16) TBA          | Kent     | Kent      | Kent    | Kent     | Kent     | (1)Duke - (16)Alabama St.      | Duke     | Duke     | Duke    | Duke     | Duke     |
| (8)Washington - (9)UBA          | UW       | UW        | UW      | UW       | UBA      | (8)Seton Hall - (9)Arizona     | Ariz     | Ariz     | Seton   | Seton    | Ariz     |
| (5)Providence - (12)Pacific     | Prov     | Prov      | Prov    | Pacific  | Pacific  | (5)Illinois - (12)Murray St.   | Illinois | Illinois | MSU     | Illinois | Illinois |
| (4) Kansas - (13)Ill- Chicago   | Kansas   | Ill - Chi | Kansas  | Kansas   | Kansas   | (4)Cincy - (13)E. Tenn St.     | Cincy    | Cincy    | Cincy   | Cincy    | Cincy    |
| (6)Boston College - (11) Utah   | Utah     | BC        | Utah    | BC       | BC       | (6)N. Carolina - (11)Air Force | NC       | NC       | NC      | NC       | NC       |
| (3)Georgia Tech - (14) N. Iowa  | GT       | GT        | GT      | NI       | GT       | (3)Texas - (14)Princeton       | Texas    | Texas    | Texas   | Texas    | Texas    |
| (7)Mich State - (10) Nevada     | MSU      | MSU       | MSU     | MSU      | MSU      | (7)Xavier - (10)Louisville     | Louis    | Xavier   | Louis   | Louis    | Louis    |
| (2) Gonzaga - (15)Valparaios    | Zags     | Zags      | Zags    | Zags     | Zags     | (2)Miss St. - (15)Monmouth NJ  | Miss     | Miss     | Miss    | Miss     | Miss     |
| (1)St. Joes - (16)Liberty       | St. Joes | St. Joes  | St.Joes | St.Joes  | St. Joes | (1)Stanford - (16)Texas SA     | Stan     | Stan     | Stan    | Stan     | Stan     |
| (8) Texas Tech - (9) Charlotte  | Tech     | Char      | Char    | Char     | Char     | (8)Alabama - (9)S. Illinois    | S. Illi  | S. Illi  | S. Illi | S. Illi  | S. Illi  |
| (5)Florida - (12)Manhattan      | Man      | Man       | Flor    | Flor     | Flor     | (5) Syracuse - (12) BYU        | Syra     | Syra     | Syra    | Syra     | Syra     |
| (4) Wake Forest - (13)Va.Common | Wake     | Wake      | Wake    | Wake     | Wake     | (4)Maryland - (13)UTEP         | Mary     | Mary     | Mary    | Mary     | Mary     |
| (6)Wisconsin - (11)Richmond     | Wisc     | Wisc      | Wisc    | Rich     | Wisc     | (6)Vanderbilt - (11) W. Mich   | WMU      | WMU      | Van     | Van      | WMU      |
| (3)Pitt- (14)C. Florida         | Pitt     | Pitt      | Pitt    | Pitt     | Pitt     | (3)NC St. - (14)Lafayette      | NC St.   | NC. St   | NC. St  | NC. St   | NC St.   |
| (7)Memphis - (10)S. Carolina    | SC       | SC        | SC      | SC       | Memp.    | (7)Depaul - (10)Dayton         | Dayton   | Depaul   | Dayton  | Dayton   | Depaul   |
| (2)Okla St. - (15 E. Washington | OSU      | OSU       | OSU     | OSU      | OSU      | (2)UCONN - (15)Vermont         | UC       | UC       | UC      | UC       | UC       |
| Second Round: Mid West/ East    |          |           |         |          |          | Second Round: South/West       |          |          |         |          |          |
| (1)(16) vs (8)(9)               | Kent     | Kent      | Kent    | Kent     | Kent     | (1)(16) vs. (8)(9)             | Duke     | Duke     | Duke    | Seton    | Duke     |
| (5)(12) vs (4)(13)              | Prov     | Prov      | Kansas  | Kansas   | Kansas   | (5)(12) vs (4)(13)             | Cincy    | Illinois | Cincy   | Cincy    | Illinois |
| (6)(11) vs (3)(14)              | GTech    | GTech     | GTech   | BC       | BC       | (6)(11) vs (3)(14)             | NC       | exas     | NC      | NC       | Texas    |
| (2)(15) vs (7)(10)              | Zags     | MSU       | Zags    | Zags     | MSU      | (2)(15) vs (7)(10)             | UL       | Miss     | Miss    | Miss     | Miss     |
| (1)(16) vs (8)(9)               | Texas T  | St. Joes  | St.Joes | St. Joes | St. Joes | (1)(16) vs (8)(9)              | Stan     | Stan     | Stan    | Stan     | Stan     |
| (5)(12) vs (4)(13)              | Wake     | Wake      | Wake    | Wake     | Florida  | (5)(12) vs (4)(13)             | Mary     | Syra     | Syra    | Syra     | Syra     |
| (7)(10) vs (2)(15)              | Wisc     | Pitt      | Pitt    | Pitt     | Wisc     | (7)(10) vs (2)(15)             | NC St.   | WMU      | NC. St. | Van      | WMU      |
| (6)(11) vs (3)(14)              | Okla St  | Okla St.  | Okla St | Okla St. | Okla St. | (6)(11) vs (3)(14)             | Uconn    | Uconn    | Uconn   | Uconn    | Uconn    |



# Justice served

**MIKE BROWN**  
Staff Writer

The recent suspension of Vancouver's Todd Bertuzzi for his violent March 8 attack on Colorado's Steve Moore, which left Moore with, among other injuries, a fractured neck, has drawn mixed reactions in the hockey world. NHL Vice President and Director of Hockey Operations, Colin Campbell, suspended the Canucks' star for the remainder of the 2004 season, including the playoffs, in hopes of sending a message that such violent acts will not be tolerated in the league.

While some fans have judged the suspension too harsh, it was absolutely necessary to maintain the integrity of the NHL. Bertuzzi will miss, at the very least, 17 games and potentially as many as 41, depending on how his team fares in this year's playoffs. Granted, this punishment is severe, paralleled only by the suspension assessed to Marty McSorley in 2000 for hitting Donald Brashear in the head with his stick. However, McSorley's NHL career was ended by that suspension (rightfully so), whereas there's no reason why Bertuzzi can't return from this setback.

Bertuzzi's supporters argue that what transpired was never Bertuzzi's intent. In fact, on the eve of the suspension, Bertuzzi himself offered a tearful apology during which he assured Steve Moore that he "had no intention of hurting [him]."

Though seemingly heartfelt, this argument is ridiculous. The fact remains that Bertuzzi sucker-punched an unsuspecting and completely vulnerable Moore from behind. Any reasonable human knows that such an attack would likely cause an injury. Though I'm sure Bertuzzi did not intend to hurt Moore so severely, he

had to expect to inflict at least some damage.

Another argument put forth by the Bertuzzi camp is that the heat of the moment causes players to act irrationally and that the consequences are merely part of the game. While that may well be true (which is, in itself, debatable), it is irrelevant in this instance. The Bertuzzi attack was in retaliation to Moore's February 16 hit on Vancouver captain, Markus Naslund, which occurred three weeks prior to the retaliation. Clearly, then, the heat of the moment had passed and Bertuzzi's hit must have been premeditated.

One must also consider Bertuzzi's history as a player. He has showed inclinations toward violence in the past, even though he is now most noted for his skill as a scorer. Nonetheless, this is Bertuzzi's third suspension for on-ice incidents, the previous two totaling 13 games. That being said, this cannot be viewed as an isolated incident.

Obviously, what happened between Steve Moore and Todd Bertuzzi is unfortunate. Nonetheless, Bertuzzi left the NHL no real choice in the disciplinary action it took. Had they allowed him to return for a portion of the playoffs and contribute to a legitimate Stanley Cup contender, the league would be seen as overly lenient. Moore will miss the playoffs, so it's only fair that Bertuzzi does as well.

There are many followers that already see increasing violence in the NHL as a significant problem and they would not have been appeased by a lesser suspension. Though Bertuzzi is clearly remorseful, that's not enough to justify fewer games. Regardless of past actions, Colin Campbell acted justly in this particular circumstance.

# OHL Playoffs

**KELLY WAMSLEY**  
Staff Writer

Sports writer Kelly Wamsley picks her favourites to win the Western Conference of the OHL. The Kitchener Rangers are defending champions and Memorial Cup champions.

## London Knights vs. Windsor Spitfires

The first place Knights have had an incredible year. They ended up with 110 points (53 - 11 - 2). The Knights carry strength and experience, whereas Windsor is a fairly young team. To give Windsor some credit, they have been on an impressive streak since some coaching changes occurred. The streak, however, will not be enough to stop London's solid offense and defense.

*My Prediction: London in 6*

## Sarnia Sting vs. Erie Otters

Since Danny Fritsche was reassigned to the Sarnia Sting, they have been unstoppable. The Otters have beaten the Sting twice, prior to Fritsche's return. Since then Sarnia has come out on top in their last two meetings. Sarnia's offense, which makes up for their weak defense, is strong and will pose a problem for Erie's defense.

*My Prediction: Sarnia in 5*

## Guelph Storm vs. Owen Sound Attack

This series could be the most exciting out of the first round. The Attack have clinched wins in their last two meetings with the Storm. Because of Guelph's depth up front, Owen Sound will have to rely on their systems and solid defense. Look for a great match up in the face off circle with the leagues top two face off men, Andre Deveau and Martin St-Pierre. This series also features two world class players, Daniel Paille and Kevin Klien, who both played for Canada in the World Junior Tournament.

*My Prediction: Owen Sound in 7*

## Kitchener Rangers vs. Plymouth Whalers

The defending Memorial Cup Champions will have to work a lot harder this year if they want to do well in these playoffs. These two teams are evenly matched. The Whalers have been hot as of late, whereas the Rangers have been plagued by either injuries or suspensions. Goaltending has been up in the air for the Rangers. For the Rangers to progress and be effective in these playoffs, they will need a reliable goaltender and will be looking in Topping's direction to provide that. Whaler's goalie Paul Drew has had a great year and gives the Whaler's some strength defensively, to compliment James Wisniewski's stellar play.

*My Prediction: Rangers in 7*

# Hockey disappointment

*Continued from cover*

Hawks, as they revved up the engines and kicked it into high gear. A second goal by Ottawa's Rebecka Jennison early in the second period would be the last time that Ottawa would get by Stein. After that goal, the Hawks went on an offensive frenzy.

Four minutes after Jennison's second goal, the Hawks responded with a goal by Amanda Joseph and shortly thereafter, capitalized on the power play with a goal by Laurissa Kenworthy.

The third period saw the momentum continue in favour of the Hawks. At 3:37 into the third period Lindsey Parissenti scored to tie the game at three. The dramatic comeback would not be spoiled by the GeeGees though. Seven minutes into the overtime frame, Candice Djuckie came through for the Hawks again and scored to win the game 4 - 3 over Ottawa to give the Hawks a chance at the CIS gold.

A controversial tie breaking rule left the Hawks battling for fifth place in the CIS

tournament. In the event of a tie in round robin play, there



www.laurierathletics.com

**Alison Goodman was named All Canadian first team defence**

are several interpretations that would decide the eventual outcome. The interpretation that saw the Hawks finish fifth in the CIS tournament was the interpretation

that advanced the winner based on goal differential and separation. However, this is a dramatic change from the rules that were allegedly agreed upon at the beginning of the tournament which would eliminate the team with the lowest goal differential within the pool.

The two remaining teams would be decided on head-to-head competition which would have sent Laurier to the gold medal game, since Laurier defeated Ottawa in the second game. In response to this tie-breaking controversy, Osborne said "Considering that we had a 2 - 1 record, and never lost a game in regulation, I'm disappointed in the way things turned out."

In a wild shootout which saw eleven goals scored in the game, the Hawks eventually came out on top with a 6 - 5 overtime victory over St. Mary's to claim fifth place in the CIS Championship. The Hawks leave Montreal a confused and disappointed team but nevertheless, the OUA Champions of a successful 2003 - 2004 season.

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# File sharing and neo-piracy

The word 'pirate' is called into question as virtual buccaneers loot the internet of its treasure

CHRIS CLEMENS  
Entertainment Editor

Being a pirate used to be cool. Back in the day, all it took to become a successful pirate was a nifty little boat with some surly sea-dogs to row it around, a fearsome demeanor and/or wooden limbs, and an insatiable urge to rape and pillage the countryside. Gradually the incessant looting faded as industry and democracy gripped the world and the word "pirate" was retired into history, serving only to provide humorous Halloween costumes for little kids and popular stereotypes for the entertainment industry.

**On the Kazaa network, record companies and demented superfans 'spike' MP3s with horrible beeping sounds or loops**

However, the internet has recently appeared as a cultural icon and single-handedly revitalized many antiquated concepts within its virtual confines. Piracy has made a sweeping return on the wings of ten thousand young children all downloading the latest Linkin Park album in synchronization, and indignant groups such as America's RIAA have arisen to take the role of the stern, yet inept, governmental force in this neo-Caribbean scenario.

The concept of piracy has become more nerdy than we could have ever imagined and yet the basic concept still remains the same: brave young swashbucklers steer their hard drives through the swirling sea of the internet, searching for copyrighted files and other valuable electronic commodities to snatch from the monolithic grasp of the culture industry. However, rather than going

solo, today's pirates work in tandem to bring their prizes to the general populace, obtaining files and releasing them into channels where other buccaneers can continue the chain of distribution.

Internet piracy has become a silent struggle of sorts, legalese and courtrooms replacing the open seas as the prime battleground for combatants. The defeat of Napster and personal lawsuits of Kazaa users serve as an indicator that bold-faced file sharing will be stifled by the opposition whenever possible, and once again piracy becomes risky business. Besides the obvious ethical questions that come with the job, pirates are faced with the necessity to remain one step ahead of the latest trend in file-sharing and avoid the controversial backlash which inevitably hits anything that becomes too popular.

Whether you have downloaded one Britney Spears MP3 or possess a computer loaded with hundreds of pre-released movie files, you still qualify as a pirate and must come to grips with the realization that you are a dirty, dirty stealer. If you can morally justify this, you should at least know where the goods are and stop wasting your time. Although I am certainly by no means actively promoting the theft of intellectual property, here are some of the advantages and pitfalls to various popular file-sharing systems. If you're going to be a neo-pirate, you might as well do it right.

## Kazaa

Once a popular site for music and ripped movies, Kazaa is now a horrible wasteland filled with bastards who scan your files and want to put you in jail. After the first wave of lawsuits, people abandoned the service like rats leaving a sinking ship and the selection of available downloads has been drastically reduced. Additionally,



Photo manipulated by Chris Clemens

**"Take what you can, give nothing back!" Ultimate pirate Johnny Depp takes his profession into the 21st century as he prowls the Matrix and excessively downloads without sharing any of his own files**

record companies and demented superfans have taken to 'spiking' MP3s with horrible beeping sounds or loops to prevent users from getting decent copies of the song. The free version of Kazaa is packed with spyware applications and advertising that intrude on your system. If you insist on using Kazaa, seek out the independently programmed Kazaa Lite which blocks unwanted intrusion and actively prevents known legal hawks from checking out your stuff.

## BitTorrent

If you want newly released movies and music albums way before anyone else gets hold of them, check out BitTorrent. Although finding files can be difficult, there are several essential webpages that list releases as they come down the pipe. Downloading is generally fast and reliable and the only major downside to this system is a lack of searchability

and an inherent difficulty in finding older stuff. If you want classic albums and 80s teen movies that have been kicking around for years, you might be out of luck. However, BitTorrent appears to be a forerunner in the piracy scene and its lack of a central server indicates that impending legal action is far away at the moment.

## IRC

This chat program is the godfather of internet piracy and is often the initial source for releases that later trickle down into other programs. However, the actual process of getting files is fairly complicated for non-geeks and a rather bizarre subculture dominates the scene. It's probably best to leave this alone unless you're dedicated to throwing yourself into the twisted and blackened heart of piracy operations.

## eDonkey/Overnet

These applications command a vast network of files, many

of which are unavailable elsewhere. In my experience, the actual downloads were extremely slow and I did not have very much fun watching the little blue bars creep slowly across the screen as weeks and months passed. The search function is excellent and will dig up virtually any electronic file that you could ever hope to possess or didn't even want to know existed. This network is becoming quite popular and I anticipate eDonkey taking the next major legal shot from the RIAA, Hollywood and god knows who else (the porn industry?).

Although these are a fraction of the available file-sharing options on the internet, hopefully my examples will serve as an indication of the vast scope that neo-piracy encompasses. So go forth, little buccaneers, and pillage the virtual landscape (if your conscience permits). This world is ours.

# Secret Window: Depp franchise

**Film:** Secret Window  
**Released:** Mar. 12, 2004  
**Starring:** Johnny Depp, John Turturro and Maria Bello  
**Nutshell:** Depp's show Cord's Rating:



out of a possible 5 cords

ERIC CHOW  
Movie Reviewer

*Secret Window* is based on Stephen King's short story *Secret Window, Secret Garden*. In this particular film, Johnny Depp plays Mort Rainey, a successful writer who is now down on his luck. His luck is so poor that he even has John Shooter, a psychotic author hick, accuse him of stealing his best work. Rainey denies this accusation, but in order to prove it he must turn to his wife and her new lover to understand who Shooter is and what his intentions are.

## Academic Value

The concept of plagiarism often operates on the princi-



Contributed Photo

**Johnny Depp is so totally rad that he gets two pictures on one page!**

ple that creators are often guilty until proven innocent. There is often a small inclination to assume that one has plagiarized another piece of work. Throughout the film, John Shooter claims that Mort Rainey stole his best work and that it is up to Mort to prove otherwise. So what is plagiarism? WLU defines it as "the unacknowledged presentation of the work of others as one's own".

Is one really guilty until

proven innocent? I consider that a complete farce. One has to realize that most professors consider all submitted work to be original and will attempt to prove otherwise only if there is a legitimate reason to, thus negating the notion of 'guilty until proven innocent'. As long as proper documentation and sourcing has been used, why should any student have to worry about such accusations?

## Who should you see it with?

Those crazy work-a-holic editors at *The Cord*... just to show them what becomes of them if they are all work and no play.

## My Take

*Secret Window* is not your typical Hollywood film, and more like a Johnny Depp franchise. This film is not like the other MTV-shot production line films you would see, but rather is a very quirky movie that requires an analytical approach for viewing (yes, that means you don't check your brain cells at the door). Throughout *Secret Window*, there are moments where you would believe that the plot makes no sense and is very broken, and you would also question why particular characters did this and that.

Every single detail is connected to another and ultimately works to link all the passages and pieces together at the end. Simply put, the plot will take you into a multitude of scenarios and will keep you guessing until you get to the very end. The mise-en-scene in this particular

film is phenomenal. The camera-work during the cabin scenes fully encapsulated the necessary feel and mood. The lighting and camera lenses created a rustic, old-fashioned feel while the city scenes were presented in a way that felt very modern, fast-paced and slick.

The acting was no slouch either. Johnny Depp was, well Johnny Depp. Charles S. Dutton pretty much reprised his Rudy role with a New Yorker slickness. Finally, Maria Bello proves that she is not simply just a pretty face.

## Cheeky Fact

Did you know that the director 'felt' for the character, Mort Rainey? It's true. David Koepp says that he can easily relate to Mort because he often seizes up and really scratches for ideas in big-budget films. In *Jurassic Park: The Lost World*, David could not figure out a way to get the necessary T-Rex equipment to San Diego. When asked about how he finally got the T-Rex into the boat, his congenial response was "Fuck if I know."



# Yarr! A matey's second opinion



## Double Feature

Carly Beath

Once in a while, I buy a CD to alleviate the occasional feelings of guilt about all the downloaded songs on my computer. This usually only happens about three times a year and only if one or more of the following applies: 1) The album is by one of my absolute favourite bands or artists, 2) The CD is very cheap, or 3) There is something really rad about the packaging/artwork.

I want to buy more CDs, I really do. Just a few years ago, more of my money probably went to the purchase of CDs than anything else. That quickly changed with the introduction of Napster and later Kazaa. At first I justified my downloading by telling myself that it was okay, since I was mostly downloading those long-forgotten one hit wonders ("Your Woman", by White Town, anyone?) and songs from hard to find CDs (the day I find a CD by The Gits in a store is the day I will buy one).

Slowly I began to download more and more songs. Now I rarely ever buy CDs. It's just so tempting when I'm broke, and it's so easy to find any song I want on Kazaa and have it saved on

my computer in mere minutes. I have a million ways to defend my downloading and make myself feel like less of a "dirty, dirty stealer." I use my self-diagnosed Attention Deficit Disorder as one excuse. It's not my fault that I have a short attention span and that many CDs are composed of 50% listenable songs and 50% filler.

**The sad fact is that we live in a society that thrives on instant gratification in exchange for as little as possible**

I know that most of my pro-downloading arguments are just pathetic attempts to ease my conscience and would probably fall apart quite quickly upon close inspection. As someone with rock star aspirations (hey, I can dream), I would like to be able to say that if I ever released music then I wouldn't care if people downloaded as long as they were listening to it. But I know that's probably not true. If I was starving and sleeping on other people's couches between gigs, I would probably be wishing that people were actually paying for my CD.

Is this realization going to stop me from downloading? Probably not. The sad fact is that we live in a society that thrives on instant gratification in exchange for as little money and effort as possible. So while I know downloading music is wrong, I know I'll keep doing it until the music industry comes up with some super-amazing way to entice me into buying CDs. That, or until the CRIA comes knocking on my door with a lawsuit.



# Throwing feminism a musical bone



## Double Feature

Carly Beath

So International Women's Week has come and gone. People might assume that, as a feminist, I am a huge fan of this event. But, in fact, my feelings towards it are ambivalent at best. While many great things happen during International Women's Week, the simple fact that it even exists is, to me, a pessimistic reminder that the rest of the year belongs to men.

I feel the same way towards the "Women in Music" issues put out by Rolling Stone et al. The majority of my favourite bands and artists are female. This is more just a matter of chance than a conscious choice. Maybe female artists appeal to me because they need to have exceptional creativity and talent in order to prove themselves, whereas guys with guitars are handed record deals and airplay left, right and centre.

For this reason, I'm interested by these magazines. I love seeing articles on some of my favourite female artists, including those who don't usually get a lot of mainstream attention. The problem is that the good part stops right about there.

The fact that there is one issue a year dedicated to women pretty much screams that men are the general focus the rest of the time. Lucky us, one week and one issue per year. I'm so incredibly grateful.

But wait, it's not even really a whole issue. Apparently even that is too much to ask. Only a small part of the latest Rolling Stone "Women Who Rock" issue is actually about women. The rest is just like a regular issue, and after look-

ing through it, it's plainly obvious that much more of the retail space is taken up by men.

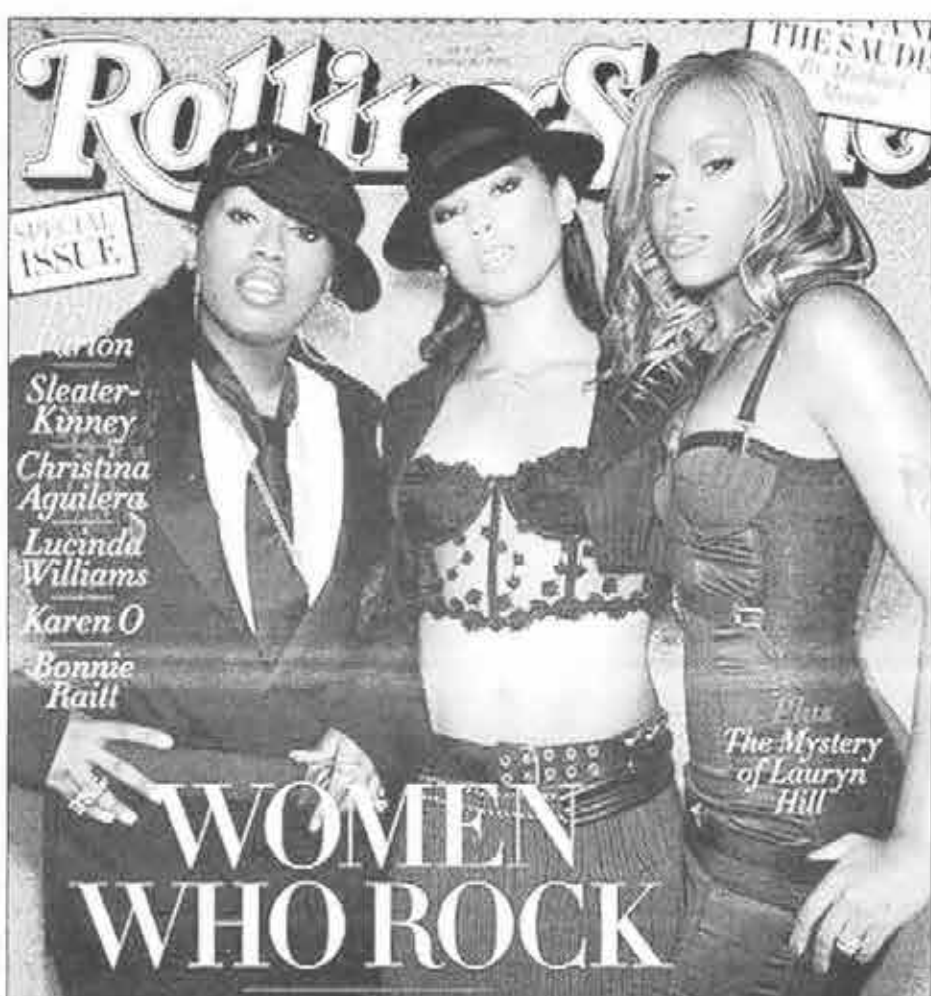
The disappointment continues with the actual female-centred content. A lot of it is garbage. Alicia Keys wearing a shirt that says "I love my hair" - could they highlight gender stereotypes any more? Apparently, yes they can. A subheading for a story on Sleater-Kinney claims, "More than just the greatest female punk band, they may be America's best punks, period." My God, a female band that isn't just good for girls. They might even be better than the boys! It's as if the writer is working under some assumption that even the best female bands can't be as good as male bands.

I'm looking forward to the

day that music journalists don't have to single out women just because they are women, but rather because of their talent. Laura Lee Davies

**We'll never see a magazine cover with three men and the headline, "Hey look: three people with penises making hit records!"**

said it best when she said that we'll never see a magazine cover with three men on it and the headline, "Hey look: three people with penises making hit records!"



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Not one of these women sings in the rock genre. Conspiracy theory!

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# Kevin Smith speaks

Cult film guru comments on his new movie, the absence of Silent Bob and the very necessary death of J-Lo

ERIC CHOW  
Movie Reviewer

A lot can be said of Kevin Smith films. Words such as humorous, witty, satirical and auteuristic are not a far stretch. Fans of his works have followed him almost religiously from *Clerks* to *Dogma* to *Jay and Silent Bob Strike Back*. However, there has been a backlash of negative criticism for his newest 'masterpiece' entitled *Jersey Girl*, which will star Ben Affleck, Jennifer Lopez and Liv Tyler.

Part of the reasoning for the negative backlash is mostly due to the Bennifer freight train and their huge box-office bomb, *Gigli*.

During a recent telecon-

ference which was held by Kevin Smith himself, he attempted to clear up some of the negative publicity that has been the result of the inclusion of Bennifer. Kevin Smith stressed the important fact that JLo is actually killed off within the first twenty minutes to keep the bad acting to a minimal, and wonders why every single critic thinks that *Jersey Girl* is more or less a sequel to *Gigli*.

However, what scares studio execs even more than the inclusion of Bennifer is the fact that Smith strays away from what has brought him so much success in the past: the characters that every young male knows as Jay (a loud and foul-mouthed individual) and Silent Bob (the



complete opposite). In fact, there is not even the slightest allusion to those characters. Smith contends that this is the result of a natural progression in his directorial development.

It has been a well-known fact that Smith films have managed to encapsulate a small, but significant moment in his life and *Jersey Girl* is no exception. Smith is a proud father and he has wanted to produce a film that he would not be afraid to show his daughter, while at the same time prove that he is not a one-show director. Only time will tell what type of success Kevin Smith will experience with his new film. Kevin Smith originally hoped for a #1 box-office rating but following the *Gigli* disaster, he is shooting for a #3 rating. He has recently said that he does not know what he would do if the film turns out to be a box-office hit. Regardless, here's hoping that he will not cast Ben Affleck in another film.



Contributed Photo

The ambiguous life-partners Jay and Silent Bob will not be returning

## Weekly Lyrics

"Should I bite my tongue  
Until blood soaks my shirt?  
We'll never fall apart  
Tell me why this hurts so much  
My hands are at your throat  
And I think I hate you  
But still we'll say, "remember when"  
Just like we always do, just like we always do"

Do you know these ho-hum overly dramatic lyrics? Sing them in the shower perhaps? Be the first to send an email with the song and artist name to [wluentertainment@yahoo.ca](mailto:wluentertainment@yahoo.ca) and I'll put your name in the next issue, plus you'll get a free CD that the nice record labels haven't been giving to me!

Last week:

David Alexander was the first to enthusiastically declare that last week's lyric of the week came straight out of the Weakerthans' "Plea From a Cat Named Virtue." Lyricism from the perspective of a self-help feline is a damn cool idea. I would just like to add:

- Chris, Entertainment Editor

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# The joys of walking on water

Princess Cinema hosts three-night WaterWalker Festival, showcasing natural masterpieces for audiences

THOMAS THOMPSON  
Special Projects Editor

Dip your oars, make a nice strong 'J' stroke and you will be off to a fantastic world of natural beauty and wonder, adding little touches of excitement, danger and some adventurous mishaps. Well, not quite, but you could witness such spectacular sights at the *WaterWalker Film Festival* last weekend.

For three nights, audiences had the opportunity to be exposed to the reels of some of the most extreme canoeing and kayaking adventures. For me, an avid lover of canoeing, it was great to see these creations by people who are fully devoted to their passions.

The first film was *The Bloodvein*, produced by Stephen Hurlbut and featuring author, activist and City TV journalist Bob Hunter. The *Bloodvein River*, straddling the provinces of Ontario and Manitoba is an untouched watershed that is only accessible by plane or canoe. It is a unique ecosystem where the wildlife and fauna has been preserved since the end of the last ice age. The name, according to Hunter, was originally *Blood River* because the Cree and the invading Sioux had battled on its banks.

The *Bloodvein River* was the European name for the river, in part because of the deposition of minerals on the

water level that runs like a vein along the entire length of the river. The important message of this film is that this environment is being affected severely, not by damming or logging, but rather by global warming. When the film was shot last year, the water level was the lowest on record; the vein that runs along the rock formation was several feet above the current river line.

Other fascinating aspects of this film include its showing of the native culture in the region, painting on the rocks that were thousands of years old and old hunting and camping grounds of the natives. *The Bloodvein* won best film for the environmental category.

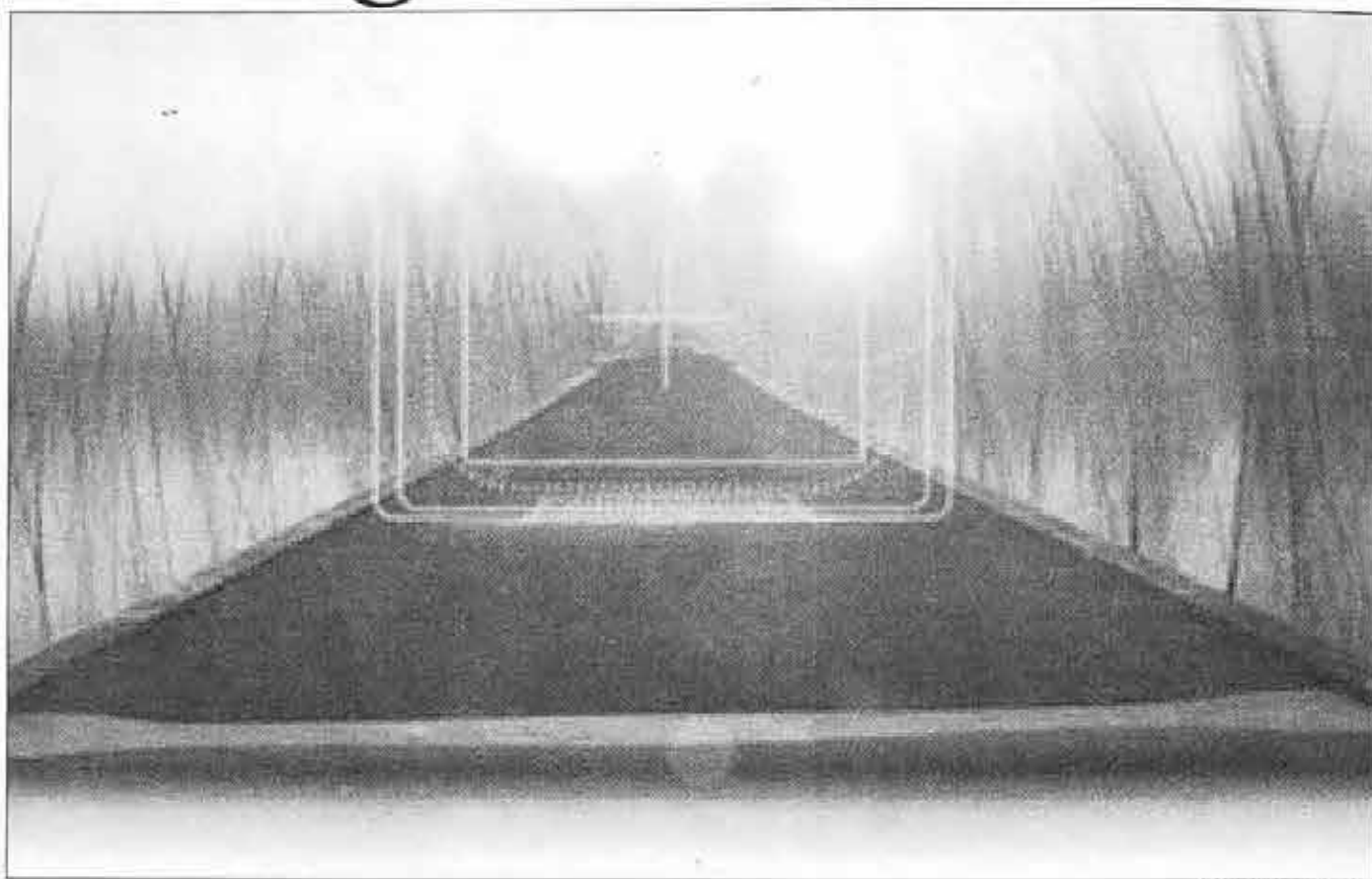
The second film, *The Crocodile River* was the most spiritual and moving of the films shown that night. Robert Perkins, the creator of the film, admits that when he was a child he was mesmerized by fire and it was the second time that he leapt into the flames that he was burned. Perkins, who previously made a film on his solo kayaking trip in the Arctic, has decided once again to embark on a journey; to regain his childhood curiosity and in a sense his desire for life once again.

Inspired by Rudyard Kipling's *The Elephant Child*, Perkins plans to canoe the length of the Limpopo River, a river that marks South Africa's border with Botswana and Zimbabwe and enter into Mozambique before it enters into the Indian Ocean.

Perkins admits that he made his first film in part because of the loss of his father, and now the motivation comes because he admits that he feels lost after the loss of his wife. "The first time it was purely about survival; this time it is to connect with the fellow river people," Perkins described.

He is joined by Bonus Lunga, a Zimbabwean guide for the journey, who himself dreams of seeing the ocean. The journey itself is indescribable, and it was one of the most moving films I have ever seen. To describe it is beyond words, but much of Perkins' romanticism is shattered as he encounters the people who live by the river.

At one point, Bonus reads a bushman's poem to Perkins



Contributed Photo

What could possibly be more relaxing than looking at a picture of a canoe... hmm... actually being in one

and he realizes how truly disconnected he is from nature and how much he really is a part of civilization. The important thing that can be observed in this film is how much Perkins himself transforms and the joy Bonus feels when they finally make it to the ocean.

**The exciting short film *Extreme Kayaking* features some of North America's best facing Class Five rapids...**

In a short interlude, a film was shown by Ben Aylsworth. *Extreme Kayaking*, features some of North America's best kayakers challenging class five rapids on the Moose River in New York State. The danger is very real, and the action extreme. At one point one of the kayakers is almost killed, one of the pros comments that it is a miracle that he lived, since he was trapped in an eddy at the bottom of a waterfall.

The final feature of the night was *The Yenisey River Expedition* which documents the first complete navigation of its entire 5500km length in history. The Yenisey is the world's fifth longest river. The document was made by Canadians: Colin Angus and Remy Quinter along with

Australian Ben Kozel. The expedition would last almost five months and the first part of it took place in Mongolia.

Needless to say, things didn't start off well for these three; they decide to ascend the summit of the mountain where the source of this river system begins. The ascent that was supposed to take a day, actually takes longer and the three were ill-equipped but made it. After taking a drink at its source, the three adventurers made their way along the river in two kayaks and a large raft, carrying their equipment. The second pitfall occurs when the group is caught in a flood and the raft is flipped. They almost lose their money and passports. They lose the film bag, which effectively eliminates the possibility of making this documentary.

At this point, they have also broken one of their oars and have lost the spare. Colin goes after the film is separated from the others for two weeks until they met again at the Mongolian border.

Reunited, the group enters Russia; and there is a stark contrast between these two countries. First of all, there are many more people and second when the group arrives at Lake Baikal they add a fourth member to the expedition, Australian Tim Cope. After they traverse the world's largest freshwater lake, the group decides to acquire a new boat. They manage to get one for free, a hulk that has been abandoned after its owner died

three years before. Putting their own into storage, the group sets about to refurbishing it, to make it seaworthy. With the help of some very sceptical locals; the boat is fixed and they even manage to acquire a fifth companion to travel with them for ten days, Olya.

Making up for lost time, as it is the middle of the summer and they haven't even reached the halfway mark, they decide to row 24 hours a day, propelling a boat no larger than my grandfather's fishing boat as their home.

An interesting interlude occurs at the city of Bratsk, where they become guests of a local kingpin Vladimir. He offers them all the hospitality each group members stomach and liver can hold as they were given a tour of the city and apparently taken to party at a night club. It was also the point where Olya departed.

The rest of the film features a natural landscape, the exception being the lock of a half completed dam. As the film progresses towards the end, we can see the strength of these men decline as their spirits appear to be almost broken. September 23, 2001 the group finally reaches the Arctic Ocean, completing the journey to celebrate, they all do a polar bear dip into the ice cold water.

This festival was definitely a unique experience and a sharp contrast from a night spent at Galaxy Cinemas.



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Getting back to nature... with a shot from sky high heights

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# No pain, surely no gain

Continued from page 28

How easily the piercing are performed depends on the person involved. Some people, men more so than women, cry and faint. My own tolerance to pain worried me.

But Jackson helped me relax by explaining that piercers have to be highly skilled and trained, and the most exciting part of their job is seeing people happy with the results.

He advised me to eat something before hand to raise the blood sugar levels. "And remember to breathe," he said. And once the piercing is done, cleaning it regularly is crucial.

At the end of our interview, Jackson looked at my nipples and gently pinched them between his fingers.

"Your nipples are very small," he said. "I'd hesitate to pierce nipples like yours." His hesitation made me somewhat nervous. After all, there are many good reasons not to shove metal into your nipples aside from the fact that you have small nipples. Despite the obvious squeamishness, there's also the issue of transgression, or rather, lack thereof.

"Piercings promote a culture of branding," said Stirling Prentice, "especially since they are no longer transgressive."

To be transgressive these days, according to Stirling, you have to lacerate skin.

I wasn't that desperate for transgression or attention, and I thought a nipple piercing offered just enough pain to satisfy my fascination with piercings, maybe even too much pain.

Naturally, I was nervous when I walked into the Stray

Katz Tattoo studio. But the large welcoming sign inspired some confidence: "CASH ONLY. PAY IN ADVANCE and it's going to be less likely we'll make mistakes. We don't pierce cocks or balls." The place clearly had some standards.

The owner, who never introduced himself, abruptly asked me what I wanted. I told him, lifting up my shirt to show him my small nipples.

He assured me there was no problem, and after finishing talking on the phone he took me into the back room with the photographer. When I told him I'm working on a story, he became a bit enervated.

"Why the fuck didn't you say this beforehand?" he asked. "Usually you ask people before you take their fucking picture," he says. I had to explain to him that the photographer was there to take my picture, and he didn't have to be in the frame.

**"CASH ONLY. PAY IN ADVANCE and it's less likely we'll make mistakes. We don't pierce cocks or balls..."**

"If you mind we won't take any pictures," I said to ease the tension.

"I don't fucking mind," he replied. "You only live once. You might as well be an asshole."

He started preparing his instruments, pulling needles and a metal clamp out of sterilized packages. Everything happened a bit too fast. He

asked me to stand straight up as he marked the place where the needle will go in. "Of course it hurts," he reassured me. "It's supposed to - don't let anyone say otherwise." I think I wanted him to lie.

"Feel any pain yet?" he asked as he readied the clamp that would hold my nipple in place. "If not I can kick you in the shins."

He told me that the clamp is probably the most painful part as he roughly constricted my nipple. This time he did lie, since the needle going through my skin felt significantly worse.

The needle sent a searing sensation throughout my body, and in my bleeding nipple I discovered a deep well of pain I never knew existed. The piercing felt like some sort of itch beneath the skin I couldn't quite scratch. I explained this to him.

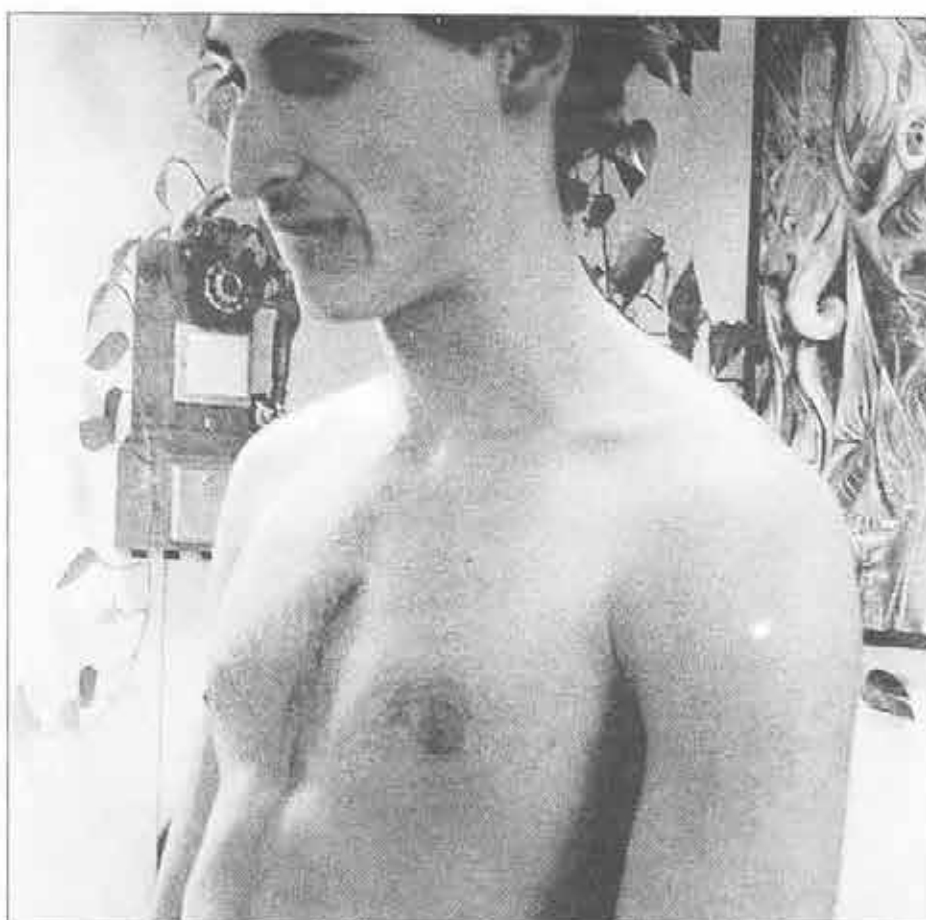
"You mean it hurts," he says. "An itch is what you get in your ass when you want to scratch it. If your ass hurts you're doing something you shouldn't."

He must have noticed that I was livid and a bit disoriented and asked me to sit down in a chair by the TV. The nipple continued to burn as I focused on the pain, everything slowing down around me.

"I don't want you to stumble out of here and fall on your face. See what happens when you keep falling on your face?" He asked pointing to his nose.

"I got mine done in the 1980s when they didn't have all this stuff. I was leaning against the bar and my friend grabbed a needle and jabbed it into my nipple. I sobered up pretty quickly."

Though he had tried to be



Matt Benassi

The art of poking metal through skin isn't all fun and games... facial expressions such as this one of disgust and terror may often accompany the painful process of decorating one's body with piercings.

amusing. I had been hurting too badly to laugh at that point. I asked him how to make the wound in my chest go away.

"Wash your fucking hands before you touch it," he said, explaining that that's the easiest way to get the piercing infected. He told me how to wash the nipple by twisting the ring from side to side in the shower.

I asked to interview him, but he declined.

"I've given too many fucking interviews already," he said. On the way out I paid him \$34.98, and he handed me a card with instructions on the back.

"When you whoopi - you know what whoopi is. yeah, yeah, the good stuff - put a

Band-Aid on it," he said as I was heading out. Whoopi was the furthest thing on my mind when I got home at night. Washing the piercing was a slow and painful process, but I was surprised by the absence of blood.

All of my moves were tender and hesitant for the next few hours - I was afraid to move my body too much and feel the ring pressing against the skin.

But this morning the piercing felt a bit better. Surprisingly, washing it gave me an instant erection. The ring, it seems, opens some hidden connection to my libido.

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# The pleasures of piercing



All photos Matt Benassi

Arriving at Stray Katz Tattoos. Destination: nipple piercing.



There was minimal preparation of the surrounding nipple area, although there was a warning that it might hurt.



As clean as a doctor's office, tattoo parlours of today are drastically different than in the 80's.



Getting down to business... and warning the piercee about 'getting down to business...'

A Cord writer embarks on a journey of sweat and searing pain

**TUDOR COSTACHE**  
Cord Arts

No sudden throbs of erotic tension rushed to the head of my penis last night while my nipple was being pierced at the Stray Katz Tattoo parlour. The pain was searing, and if my teeth were not firmly clenched I would have let out a scream, not a moan.

I always found the look of metal penetrating skin mildly arousing on other people - piercings subtly accentuate the flesh, bringing attention to bellies, nipples, earlobes, and lips. It's easy to be fascinated by body modifications, and it was this fascination that prodded me to explore the pain and pleasure of the piercing room.

And many people, it seems, share the same fascination. Piercings are becoming pervasive, but everyone

has a unique justification for the metal that sticks through their skin.

"We all look the same, so there's this desire to further distinguish yourself," said Chris Clements, the Cord's entertainment editor.

For Chris, this attempt to distinguish himself lead him to pierce his eyebrow in high school. The piercing, he says, adds an aesthetic quality that fits into his lifestyle.

"But piercings are unnecessary," he said, pointing out that there's some vanity involved in getting yourself pierced. And other people seem to buy into this vanity - the girls Chris dates find his piercings irresistible but also problematic in intimate moments. "Piercings tend to get caught in the other person's hair while doing ... stuff," He says. "It's hard to laugh it off." He warned me

that hair could get all tangled up in my nipple ring. "Watch out for that shit."

Jackson Sherratt, a piercer turned academic, has a tattoo suit and deep and enviable piercings. For him, body modifications are all about aesthetics and the externalization of internal processes.

He also sees his skin as the canvas that allows his internal reality to emerge. He told me, jokingly, that he wants to have it preserved after he dies.

I took advantage of Jackson's experience piercing people to find out more about what I was getting myself into by agreeing to have my nipple pierced for this story. "Pleasure outlasts pain," Jackson said, reminding me that body modifications are a long-term commitment. The pleasure that comes from this commitment outlasts the initial pain of getting a piercing or a tattoo.

Continued on page 27



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